BUSINESS / B1

Peso marks new 6-year high: 46.72 to $1

NEWS / A4

3 Pinay climbers set to complete record feat on Mt. Everest

ACROSS / A21

Vigil against fraud in Pampanga governor's race swells

ENTERTAINMENT / H1

PDI's man in Hollywood reports from Cannes: Walking in the footsteps of Brocka

GMA: Election results a victory for economy

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESTERday described this week's congressional and local elections as a victory for the economy as well as a vote of confidence in her administration.

"The victory of the overwhelming majority of candidates sympathetic to the administration

GMA: ELECTION/ A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, May 18, 2007 ★★ 15 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 159 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Ong's SC appointment recalled over citizenship

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Leila B. Salaverria

SUPREME COURT JUSTICES HAVE THREATened to boycott the oath-taking of their newest member, Associate Justice Gregory Santos Ong, and law groups are poised to challenge his appointment before the high court because of questions on his citizenship, two judicial offi-

ONG/ A17

'No voting in Maguindanao'

MILF, residents question Team Unity's 12-0 win in province

By Inquirer Mindanao, Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Norman Bordadora

WITH INITIAL RETURNS showing a 12-0 sweep by the administration's Team Unity (TU) in Maguindanao, the question has arisen: Were elections actually held in the province?

Moro Islamic Liberation Front spokesperson Eid Kabalu yesterday told the INQUIRER that according to reports he had received from the field, "there was no actual conduct of elections in many parts of Maguindanao."

Kabalu also quoted MILF members and supporters as saying that election paraphernalia did not even reach some polling precincts in the province.

"How the TU came out with 12-0—that is the question," he said.

A resident of Maguindanao, who asked not to be named for security reasons, said the early election results in the province were "purely a manipulation of a few."

"If I were the opposition, I will move for the nullification of the results," the resident said.

The TU senatorial candidates' purported 12-0 sweep in Maguindanao had defied early results in other areas of the country where the Genuine Opposition (GO) candidates dominated.

Bantay Boto, the group of retired military and police officers and men who had warned of a supposed plot to cheat dubbed "Oplan Mercury Rising," said it had information that fraud attended the canvassing in Maguindanao.

But as far as the Liberal Party (LP)—one of the member-parties of the GO coalition—is concerned, Maguindanao is a lost cause for the opposition.

LP director general Chit Asis said the party did not bother to field local candidates or assign poll watchers in the province's 27 towns.

"It was pointless to put watchers in Maguindanao. There's no such thing as elections there," Asis said in Manila when asked if the LP had counterchecked the supposed TU sweep.

"The elections there are done by other people, not by the constituents. The elections there are dictated. There's no point," added Asis, who supervises the LP's internal canvassing at its campaign

NO VOTING/ A8

WHEN CIVILITY IS IN FLOWER: Humble losers Manila mayoral candidate Ali Atienza (center) and his father incumbent Mayor Lito Atienza congratulate the former's rival Alfredo Lim on his overwhelming victory. *(See story in Metro, Page A26.)* REM ZAMORA

THE GOOD FIGHTS

Pineda leads in Pampanga; Espinosas trail in Masbate

By the Inquirer Bureaus

CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE MA. Lourdes Lilia Espinosa is not giving up hope of capturing the seat to be vacated by her uncle, Rep. Emilio Espinosa, although initial canvassing results showed her archrival Gov. Antonio Kho well ahead.

Espinosa (Kampi), who left a corporate job at the giant broadcast network ABS-CBN to continue her family's blood-soaked political dynasty, said she would readily concede if the results reflected the "true will" of the people.

In the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) count as of 7 a.m. yesterday, she had garnered 31,716 votes. Kho, a Lakas-CMD candidate, had 44,554.

Both the tallies of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) and the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) showed Kho leading Espinosa by a comfortable margin.

Espinosa's uncle, who ran for governor against Kho's wife Olga, was also trailing in both tallies.

The congressional candidate said she would still pursue the disqualification case she filed against Kho in the Comelec's second division because the governor allegedly failed to meet the one-year residency requirement.

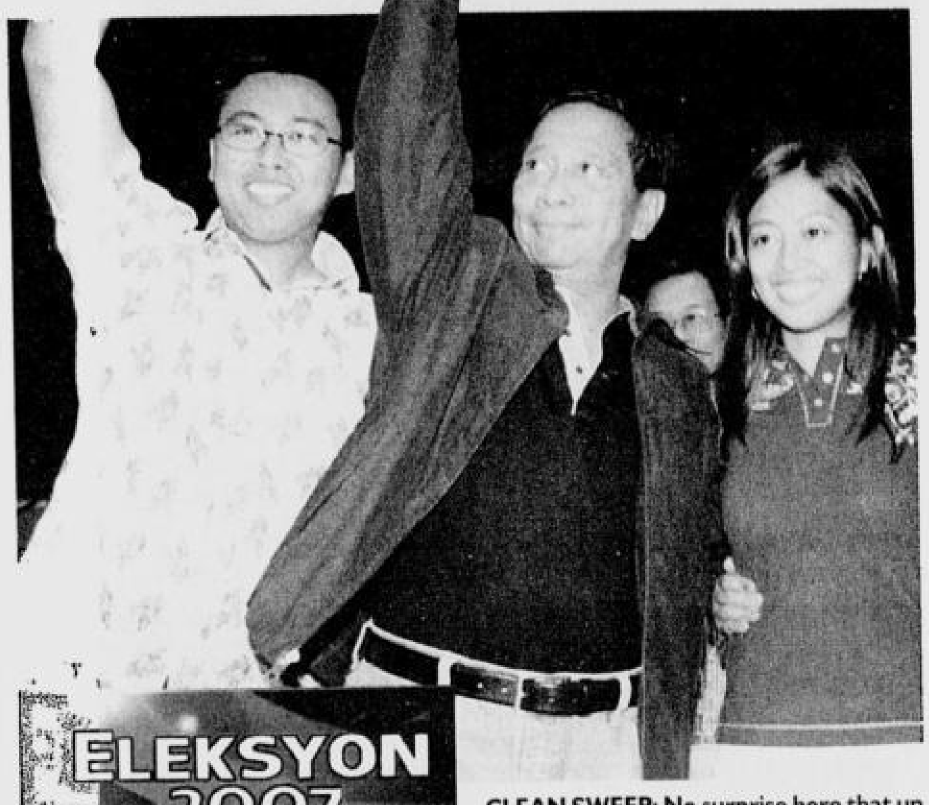
Kho had brushed aside the accusation, saying he had been residing in Mandaon town since 2004.

In Batangas, the Rectos are facing contrasting political fortunes.

While Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos-Recto (Lakas-CMD), wife of reelectionist Sen. Ralph Recto, continues to lead in the gubernatorial race over incumbent Gov. Armando Sanchez, her brother-in-law, Vice Gov. Ricky Recto, was trailing in the congressional race in the fourth district.

The Namfrel count as of 9 p.m. on Wednesday showed Ricky Recto (Genuine Opposition) with only 8,105 votes.

PINEDA/ A19



CLEAN SWEEP: No surprise here that up against the administration-backed Sen. Lito Lapid, reelectionist Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay (center) won bigtime. His entire ticket, including daughter Abigail for congresswoman and son Jejomar Jr. who topped the 8-slot city council, captured all elective posts, 20-0. *(See story in Metro, Page A25.)*

ELEKSYON 2007

COMELEC TALLY

51 Foreign posts and COCs from Mandaluyong, Batanes & Biliran; As of 7:30 p.m. May 17, 2007

1	LEGARDA, Loren	GO	139,385
2	ESCUDERO, Francis	GO	132,755
3	VILLAR, Manuel Jr.	GO	120,536
4	LACSON, Panfilo	GO	118,475
5	PANGILINAN, Francis	Ind	115,625
6	AQUINO, Benigno	GO	115,571
7	CAYETANO, Alan	GO	97,899
8	PIMENTEL, Aquilino	GO	88,037
9	ARROYO, Joker	TU	85,351
10	ANGARA, Edgardo	TU	83,943
11	RECTO, Ralph	TU	83,838
12	TRILLANES, Antonio	GO	80,833
13	HONASAN, Gregorio	Ind	80,292
14	ROCO, Sonia	GO	75,642
15	ZUBIRI, Miguel	TU	66,280
16	DEFENSOR, Michael	TU	64,583
17	SOTTO, Vicente III	TU	61,483
18	OSMENA, John	GO	54,527
19	PICHAY, Prospero Jr.	TU	53,153
20	COSETENG, Nikki	GO	50,262

NAMFREL TALLY

37,920 out of 224,748 precincts
As of 3:57 p.m. May 17, 2007

1	LEGARDA, Loren	GO	2,414,813
2	ESCUDERO, Francis	GO	2,371,648
3	LACSON, Panfilo	GO	2,174,720
4	PANGILINAN, Francis	Ind	2,024,294
5	VILLAR, Manuel	GO	2,009,308
6	AQUINO, Benigno	GO	1,948,585
7	ANGARA, Edgardo	TU	1,775,139
8	ARROYO, Joker	TU	1,603,630
9	HONASAN, Gregorio	Ind	1,550,519
10	CAYETANO, Alan	GO	1,548,492
11	PIMENTEL, Aquilino	GO	1,501,488
12	TRILLANES, Antonio	GO	1,493,808
13	ZUBIRI, Miguel	TU	1,479,886
14	RECTO, Ralph	TU	1,464,369
15	PICHAY, Prospero	TU	1,406,513
16	DEFENSOR, Michael	TU	1,361,770
17	MONTANO, Cesar	TU	1,167,959
18	ROCO, Sonia	GO	1,167,853
19	SOTTO, Vicente	TU	1,018,866
20	OSMENA, John	GO	993,614

Namfrel goofs; GO leads 8-2-2

By Cathy Yamsuan and Edson Tandoc

THE NATIONAL CITIZENS' MOVEMENT for Free Elections (Namfrel) yesterday admitted it erred when its chair Edward Go authorized the release of the 10th update of its tabulation at around noon even if the audit team had yet to verify all the data.

After correcting the errors, Namfrel released the Batch 11 update, which showed the Genuine Opposition (GO) still maintaining its lead at 8-2-2. *(See Table.)*

It was 8-3-1 in favor of GO at the canvassing by the Commission on Elections of returns from at least 44 countries for the overseas vote and from two

NAMFREL/ A10

Bishop Soc angry: Bataan polls 'dirtiest'

By Nikko Dizon

DIGUSTED OVER WHAT IT SAID WAS the "dirtiest election" in Bataan, the diocese of Balanga has issued the angriest Roman Catholic Church statement yet denouncing massive vote-buying in Monday's midterm balloting in the province.

In a strongly worded pastoral letter in Filipino, Bishop Socrates Villegas and 49 priests in the diocese warned on Wednesday that for losing their morality, Bataan and the people who violated the sanctity of the ballot would be punished by the unworthy leaders they had elected.

Villegas is the outspoken protegee of the late Archbishop of Manila Jaime Cardinal Sin.

"The ballots have spoken but it was not the voice of conscience that was

BISHOP SOC/ A10

Cops linked to Batangas fire that killed 2; 4 more poll-related deaths

By Alcuin Papa

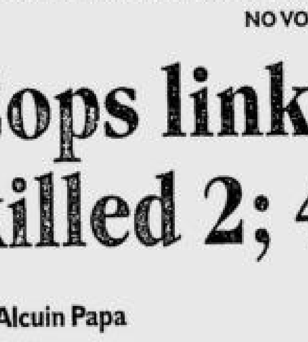
THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE yesterday backtracked from its accusation that communist guerrillas had burned a school in Taysan, Batangas, and said five policemen were in its custody in connection with the attack that left two election workers dead.

The predawn fire on Tuesday killed school teacher Nellie Banaag and poll watcher Leticia Ramos just after they had completed canvassing the votes cast in Monday's elections. A dozen others were injured.

Director Geary Barias, chief of the PNP Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management, did not name the five but said one of them held the rank of inspector. The five were members of a PNP Regional Special Operations Group.

A police official who did not wish to be

COPS LINKED/ A19


BAKA MAY MILAGRO NAMAN!

TU, GO spokesmen clash over Chavit's No. 1 rank

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

GENUINE OPPOSITION SPOKESPERSON ADEL Tamano reacted with disbelief to a non-Muslim like Luis "Chavit" Singson, a Team Unity senatorial candidate from Luzon, placing No. 1 in Maguindanao, a predominantly Muslim province in Mindanao.

This prompted a caustic response from TU deputy spokesperson Tonypet Albano, who demanded that Tamano, a scion of a powerful Muslim clan, apologize for what he called a "racial slur" against Singson.

The two spokespersons, who were at the weekly "Kapihan sa Senado," were visibly annoyed by each other's remarks on reports that TU had scored a 12-0 shutout in Maguindanao, but they still managed to keep their cool.

"I mean no disrespect to the leaders in

TU, GO/ A8

EZ2
1 14

SIX DIGIT
5 7 6 2 5 7

SUERTRES
Mid-Day 5 6 6 | Evening 8 4 6
(All in exact order)

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Second FrontPage

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will continue to experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: LAW DE GUZMAN, INQUIRER RESEARCH/05/17/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

Bayan Muna cries party-list fraud

By TJ Burgonio

FOUR DAYS AFTER the elections, with the bulk of electoral fraud complaints coming out of Mindanao, the Bayan Muna party-list group has sent a team to the region to verify reports administration candidates had shut out the opposition in Maguindanao province.

"There's a reason to be suspicious, especially with the leading candidate coming from Ilocos Sur. It challenges credibility," said Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo in a briefing.

Bayan Muna said Party-list Task Force Poll Watch had so far received 156 complaints of electoral fraud from around the country, but it appeared the most glaring cases had occurred in the southern Philippines.

Bayan Muna said it had received reports of ballot box-switching, vote-padding and the banning of poll watchers of militant party-list groups and opposition candidates in canvassing centers in Tungawan, Zamboanga Sibugay.

JAGPAAN
BAYAN
PROTEKTAHAN ANG BOTO SA PARTY-LIST! BAYAN

PARTYLIST Representatives Liza Masa, Teddy Casino and Satur Ocampo show some of their evidence of fraud.

JOAN BONDOC

Slashed by half

In the same town, Bayan Muna's allied party-list group Suara Bangsamoro complained that 4,000 votes cast for it were slashed by half during the canvass at the municipal hall.

The 273 votes cast for Anakpawis in Colombio, Sultan Kudarat, were reduced to zero during the provincial canvass, according to Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano.

The other complaints received from Mindanao were:

- Party-list sheets were removed from several election returns (ERs) in Malabang, Lanao del Sur;
- Votes for Suara and Genuine Opposition senatorial candidates were not read or written into the ERs in several precincts in Marawi, Lanao del Sur;
- Votes for party-list groups were counted last or were not counted at all in Matanog, Sharif Kabunsuan;
- Election returns were sold in Lanao del Sur and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao;
- Only up to three copies of ERs, instead of seven, were made available in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Sharif Kabunsuan.

"The forms of fraud we detected were just the tip of the iceberg," said Bayan Muna secretary general Nathaniel Santiago.

Bayan Muna will seek a "failure of elections" in Zamboanga Sibugay because of the massive fraud that happened there, he said.

Unbelievable

Santiago said reports voters in Maguindanao had voted straight Team Unity in the senatorial race were "unbelievable, unless they resorted to massive vote-buying."

Ocampo said, "If they had the machinery, why was it only concentrated in Maguindanao? How come they did not achieve 12-0 anywhere else?"

In Metro Manila and other parts of the country, Bayan Muna and its allied groups said votes cast for them were shaved while those for pro-administration groups were padded.

Ocampo said other forms of cheating were the printing of an excess number of ballots and the nonreading of votes for party-list groups.

"We condemn these forms of cheating against our party-list groups. We urge the people to monitor the canvassing to minimize, if not eradicate, cheating," he said.

Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza said 20 votes cast for the party-list group were entered as zero in the polling precinct at San Diego Elementary School in Batasan, Quezon City.

In contrast, Ahon, Agap, Aging and Apoy party-list groups were credited with one vote each, despite having received no votes at San Antonio Elementary School, also in Quezon City, Maza said.

Shaved votes

"Here, the votes for Gabriela were shaved, while Ahon Pinoy, a pro-administration party-list group, was credited with at least one vote. I'm sure this was also happening elsewhere, but we don't have the figures yet," Maza said.

Ocampo said Bayan Muna was initially listed as having received zero votes in the certificate of canvass in San Luis, Pampanga, but its real number of votes was listed only after the poll watchers of gubernatorial candidate Fr. Ed Panlilio complained.

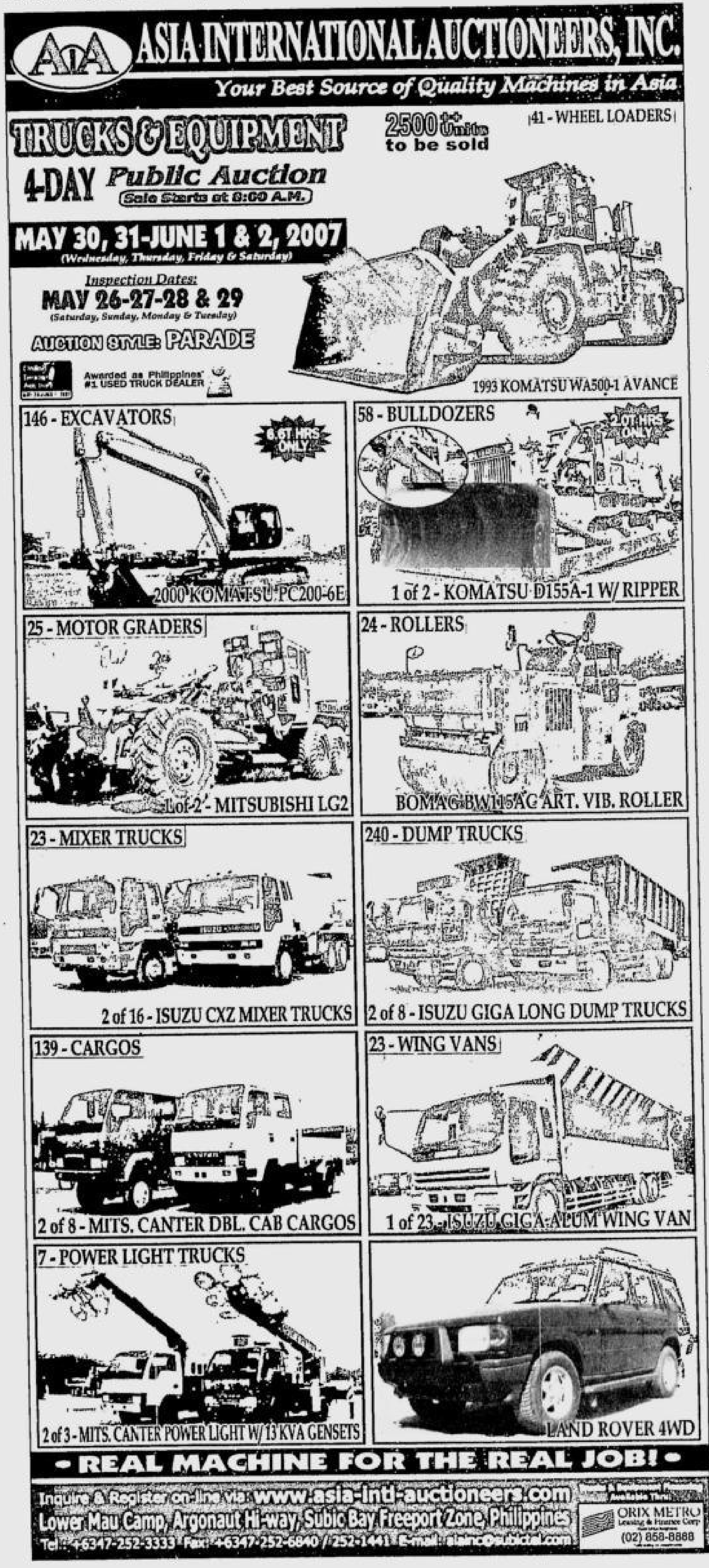
"If the poll watchers did not protest and expose it, we would have gotten zero votes," he said.

Ocampo said the party-list groups would take action after all the votes were counted.

Overseas Filipino workers, meanwhile, yesterday urged the Commission on Elections to make the canvass tallies available online.

Dolores Balladares, chair of United Filipinos in Hong Kong (Unifil), an affiliate of Migrante International, said: "The absence of relevant and timely information during the registration and voting period had disenfranchised OFWs. Now that the votes are being canvassed, we should at least be afforded the easiest access to information to monitor the status of the elections."

Balladares added: "The party-list system is the only opportunity for OFWs who have been marginalized for a long time to ensure their representation in Congress. Thus, it is of great interest to us to know the standing of the party-list election in a more comprehensive manner." *With Jerome Aning*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Palace assails comparison to Afghanistan

BUNYE

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY DENOUNCED the scathing statement by foreign observers in last Monday's midterm elections that they felt safer in war-torn Afghanistan than in Mindanao.

"Comparisons between Mindanao and Afghanistan by a foreign observer who still has much to learn about Philippine culture, heritage and politics, are uncalled for," President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, said in a statement.

A 21-member team from the Asian Network for Free Elections, which came to monitor the conduct of the elections, reported violence and manipulation of the voting particularly in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Bunye's ire was directed at one member of the Anfrel who said they felt safer in Afghanistan.

"The situation is not so comfortable especially if you have the military everywhere and also weapons everywhere," said Somsri Hananontasuk, Anfrel director from Thailand.

"Of course, we were also afraid of the underground Taliban ... but at least we don't have shooting ... the threat from two sides when you go anywhere and the guns that sometimes are poised," he said.

Bunye questioned the competence of the foreign observers to make judgments on the situation in the country.

"Filipinos throughout the archipelago and even overseas are free to choose who to vote for, and are able to move around with great ease knowing that the AFP and PNP are there to help them," he said.

"While we welcome foreign observers, we also must recognize their limited exposure to national and local politics in the Philippines," he said.

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6 Degrees of Celebrity Beauty Secrets

The truth is, no one's perfect. And that includes those picture-perfect stars on TV and in magazines. While some of them seem to have skin and faces that defy time, it's most probably either a) a camera trick, b) really good make-up, or c) some hi-tech skin technology. Here's the dish on 6 featured celebs and what we envy about them (plus the truth behind what they really did to look and stay flawless).

Cherie Gil's poreless face. Newsflash people, it ISN'T a facelift. Cherie, a woman known for her high standards, always chooses the best and latest innovations in nearly everything. Especially her skincare. She prefers **Fraxel**, a highly advanced way of removing skin imperfections like wrinkles, dark spots and other signs of aging. It works like retouching photos in the computer, using an "editing wand" that brushes away the skin's flaws. Cherie first heard about Fraxel in the States, where it was reportedly making waves.

Cristina Romualdęz's flawless face. Some make-up artists claim she looks just as radiant even pre-foundation. (And guess what. She does.) What she swears by? **IPL** (Intense Pulsed Light). It's a painless treatment that uses a broad spectrum of light that easily removes freckles, dark spots and other blemishes you'd usually hide with concealer. IPL also gives the face that fresh, "just washed" look. It gets people guessing if Cristina has make-up on or not when she's seen in public, because of such minimal difference. Now we know why.

Amanda Griffin's perfect underarms. Hairless, smooth, without even a miniscule dark spot! A certain photographer even claimed, "I dont need to PhotoShop them," after taking a picture of her baring her underarms. Don't hate her for being so blessed. She had a little help from **LaserLight** permanent hair removal. The virtually painless method promises not only permanent freedom from hair growth, but also smoother and whiter underarms.

Ana Roces' porcelain skin. With an innocent, doll-like face and skin as smooth as a baby's, who'd believe Ana's already in her 30's?! Yes, it *partly* is in the genes, but even genes can't keep the face from aging. (Heinous UV rays and clogging make-up are major culprits.) Reportedly low-maintenance, Ana's favorite indulgence is the **Diamond Peel.** The non-surgical procedure that removes dead skin cells and surface dirt keeps her from going overboard with a gazillion creams and products.

Carmi Martin's ageless skin. How young is Carmi Martin anyway? She says she's 43, but no one knows for sure, 'cause she looks almost as young as she was 2 decades ago! She swears she hasn't been under the knife, and that is certified true. As someone who'd rather not go through the trauma of plastic surgery, she opts for the ultra-safe **ReFirme** laser treatment instead. It's a safe, 45-minute procedure that removes wrinkles, fine lines, sags and dull skin. With no downtime, it's a convenient fix-me-up before any special event or public appearance (famous or otherwise).

Amina Aranaz-Alunan's glowing complexion. Before you think it's just the "glow of pregnancy," Amina's skin has always looked healthy before, during and after giving birth. One possible reason? It might be the **Repêchage 4-Layer Facial**, which is possibly the facial of all facials. With such an extensive process, it's probably the most advanced facial procedure of its kind. (Its ingredients are imported all the way from New York, making it a signature facial from the place that exclusively offers it.)

Rumor has it all these celebs are frequently seen at different branches of Facial Care Centre, where they get all their state-of-the-art treatments. (Some of those treatments reportedly aren't available in other skincare centers.) Interesting... Might be a good time to book an appointment. (Facial Care's number is 892-7546.) ADVT

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THOUGHTS & NOTIONS

3 Pinays about to complete unprecedented Everest feat

By Alcuin Papa

THE FIRST FILIPINO WOMEN TO REACH the summit of Mt. Everest have a few more formidable obstacles to hurdle before they achieve another first, that of traversing the two main routes to the world's highest peak.

The three—Noelle Wenceslao, Carina Dayondon (not Karina as earlier reported) and Janet Belarmino—are poised to make history as the first women ever to traverse Mt. Everest, that is, climb from the North Side to the peak and then down the South Side.

Wenceslao, Dayondon and Belarmino already made history last Wednesday by becoming the first Southeast Asian women to reach the summit of Everest, at 8,848 meters above sea level the highest peak in the world.

They beat a Malaysian woman who is also climbing this season on the South Side. Indonesian Clara Sumawati was said to have reached the peak of Everest in 1996 but this feat has been disputed.

Wenceslao earlier suffered from acute mountain sickness and pulmonary edema while climbing. Belarmino just gave birth to her first baby around five months ago.

The three made their way to the peak from the mountain's northern side and planned to go down its south side.

ABS-CBN television reported yesterday that the three were on their way down to Camp 2 (6,500 meters) on the South Side but did not say where the three camped Wednesday night.

Romi Garduce, a Filipino mountaineer who scaled Mt. Everest last year, said the women have the option to stay overnight on Camp 4 (7,920 meters), which is five to six hours from the summit.

'Death zone'

Despite the camp's reputation as the "Death Zone" where extreme cold can sap a climber's strength, logistics can spell the difference, Garduce said.

"As long as the logistics are there, like oxygen tanks, tents and food, things can be good," he said.

What is important is that they are able to rest and recover their strength, he said.

"Everything will depend on their physical condition and their presence of mind," he said.

Down the mountain at Camp 2, the Filipinas will encounter the Lhotse Face, a steep and narrow ice-laden ledge. Last year, Czech climber Pavel Kalny lost his life while trying to cross the Lhotse Face.

"To cross the Lhotse Face, they will need their presence of mind and make sure they clip their ropes properly," said Garduce.

From Camp 2, the Filipinas are scheduled to descend to Camp 1 today and then on to the Everest Base Camp.

But before reaching Base Camp, the Filipinas will have to negotiate the dreaded Khumbu Icefall, where three Sherpas lost their lives last year.

The Khumbu Icefall is a large slab of ice that covers the lower part of the mountain's south face. Ice seracs (pointed masses of ice), deep crevasses and ever-shifting masses of ice make for a dangerous trek. Climbers usually use metal ladders to cross crevasses.

"This is the first time they will use ladders although there is a good safety system," Garduce said. The climbers will have to make sure the anchors on their ropes are secure, he added.

Teammates

The Filipinas are accompanied by the Sherpas who guided Leo Oracion and Pastor Emata in their historic climb to Everest last year. Oracion and Emata are teammates of the women in the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition (FPMEE) team.

Garduce, who marvels at the strength of the three Filipinas, said he has no doubt the three would make the descent safely.

"I'm really impressed. To scale the North Side at under 12 hours is a feat in itself. I was surprised. I don't think even I could do that," Garduce said.

At Everest Base Camp, the three women are in for treat from the team's welcoming party.

Wenceslao's father Peewee is reportedly in the Everest Base Camp to welcome his daughter. Wenceslao's mother passed away last year.

Also on Base Camp are Oracion, who scaled Everest last year, John Fortes of the Philippine Air Lines Mountaineering Club (PALMC), and around 10 members of the PALMC led by veteran mountaineer Banny Hermanos.

Traditionally, a hefty meal is prepared on Base Camp for successful summiteers.

An unconfirmed report last night said that Reggie Pablo, who is leading another group of FPMEE climbers, had also reached the summit of Everest on the South Side at around 8 a.m. yesterday.

PPCRV defends media count

By Jerome Aning

MEDIA FIRMS THAT CAME UNDER FIRE FROM the Commission on Elections for coming out with their own vote counts after Monday's election received the backing of a poll watchdog.

Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) president Henrietta de Villa defended the media outlets—GMA 7 and ABS-CBN—saying: "The purpose was to fill the lull, especially in the 24 hours following the elections. I think they (media firms) were using a scientific way of doing it. I don't see anything wrong with that."

De Villa told reporters that in the final analysis, there would only be one count—the Comelec's—which should not differ from the one conducted by the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) and the media firms.

"If I were a candidate, I wouldn't get nervous about those things," she said.

The former ambassador compared the media "quick counts" to surveys, saying the "results are good for our information [but we should not let them] determine our decisions."

The PPCRV used to partner with Namfrel in the quick count authorized by the Comelec.

This year, though, De Villa said PPCRV was conducting its own "private count" based on precincts' statements of votes (SOVs) collected by PPCRV volunteers nationwide.

SOVs contain the total number of votes garnered by each candidate per precinct and local government unit, as well as voter-turnout statistics.

The result of the private count, De Villa said, would be for "audit purposes" and would only be divulged after the proclamation of the winners.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos had ordered the two top television and radio networks to stop airing their own quick counts using unconsolidated results from unspecified sources.

He warned GMA 7 and ABS-CBN on Wednesday they would be cited for contempt and could face sanctions if they did not heed his order.

"Both stations are not accredited to do a quick count. It's only Namfrel [that could do that]," Abalos said.

Based on a prior arrangement, the Comelec had allowed the two networks to air quick counts and exit polls but they were not allowed to consolidate election results without citing their sources, he said.

GMA 7 and ABS-CBN had used AMA and STI computer schools, respectively, for their quick counts. AMA and STI were only "tools" and not "valid sources," Abalos said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, May 18, 2007
6th Week of Easter
John I

1st Reading: Acts 18:9-18
Gospel: John 16:20-23

Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy. A woman in childbirth is in distress because her time is at hand. But after the child is born, she no longer remembers her suffering because of such great joy: a human being is born into the world.

"You feel sorrowful now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice. And no one will take your joy from you. When that day comes you will not ask me anything. Truly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my Name, he will give you."

Commentary

Paul is given a dream to stay in Corinth and he will be safe. And he stays, preaching for a year and a half. But then the Jews want him out, he is defended by the proconsul and fighting breaks out among the Jews. When he leaves, he takes with him Priscilla and Aquila. And we are given a snippet of information that he shaves his head because of a vow (private devotion). The Church is living and growing and the gospel has Jesus teaching us that life is filled with weeping/mourning and rejoicing. Life in the Church, in the Spirit, in the baptized, is like a woman giving birth—hard labor, pain, but incredible joy at what is brought forth. And the child is born.

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Hagedorn reelected in Puerto

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—REELECTIONIST Mayor Edward Hagedorn and his entire slate for vice mayor and the council were proclaimed winners yesterday.

A press statement from the office of the mayor said Hagedorn scored a landslide victory by garnering 41,712 votes while his opponent—etired police general Eduardo Matillano—got 17,396 votes for a margin of 24,316 votes.

Reelectionist vice mayor Cecil Bayron also scored a convincing victory, garnering 35,600 votes to beat former councilor Telesforo Paredes, who got 19,512 votes.

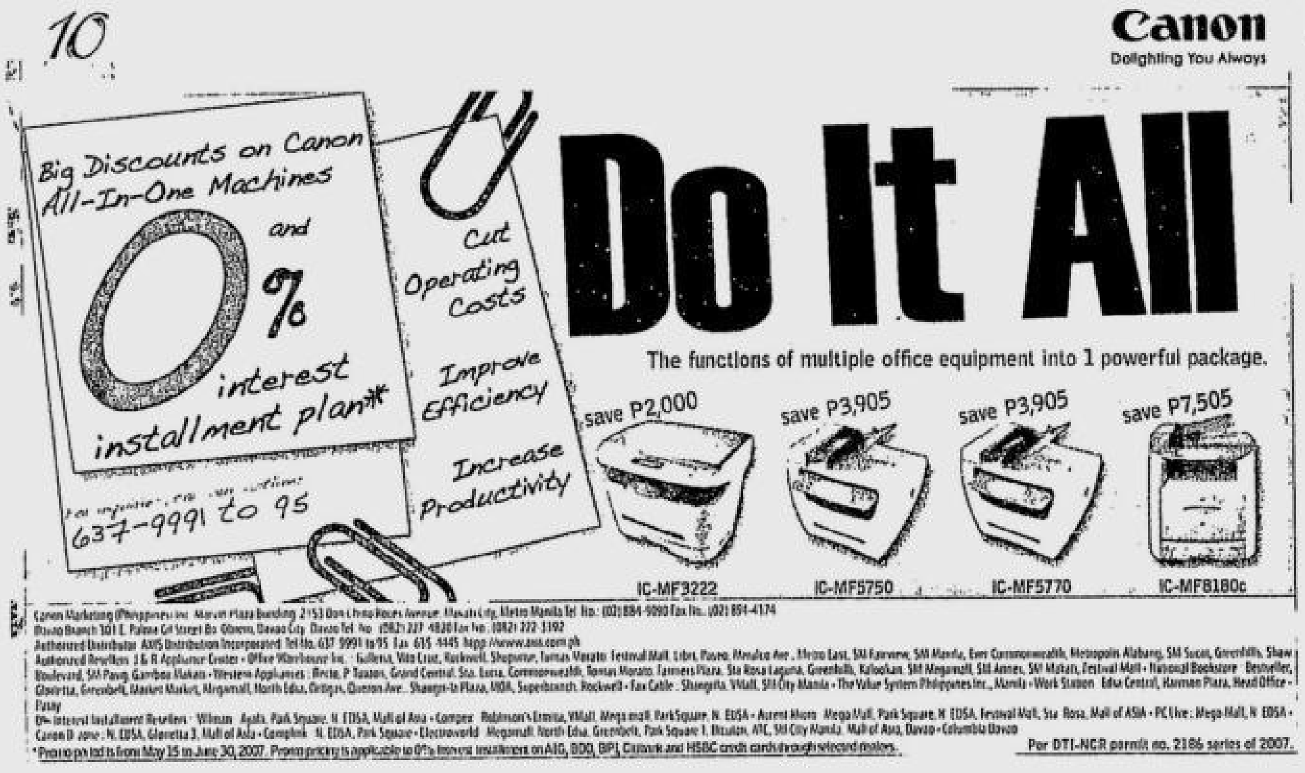
All ten candidates fielded by Hagedorn for the city council won.

Voter turnout was only 60 percent, Hagedorn said.

Hagedorn attributed the low voter turnout to what he called "dirty tricks" and black propaganda waged by his opponents, including the distribution of fake orders from Comelec and the Supreme Court for the disqualification of Hagedorn two days before the election.

Two persons allegedly belonging to the Matillano camp were arrested while posting the spurious Supreme Court order in a polling precinct, Hagedorn said. They are now facing charges filed by the local police.

10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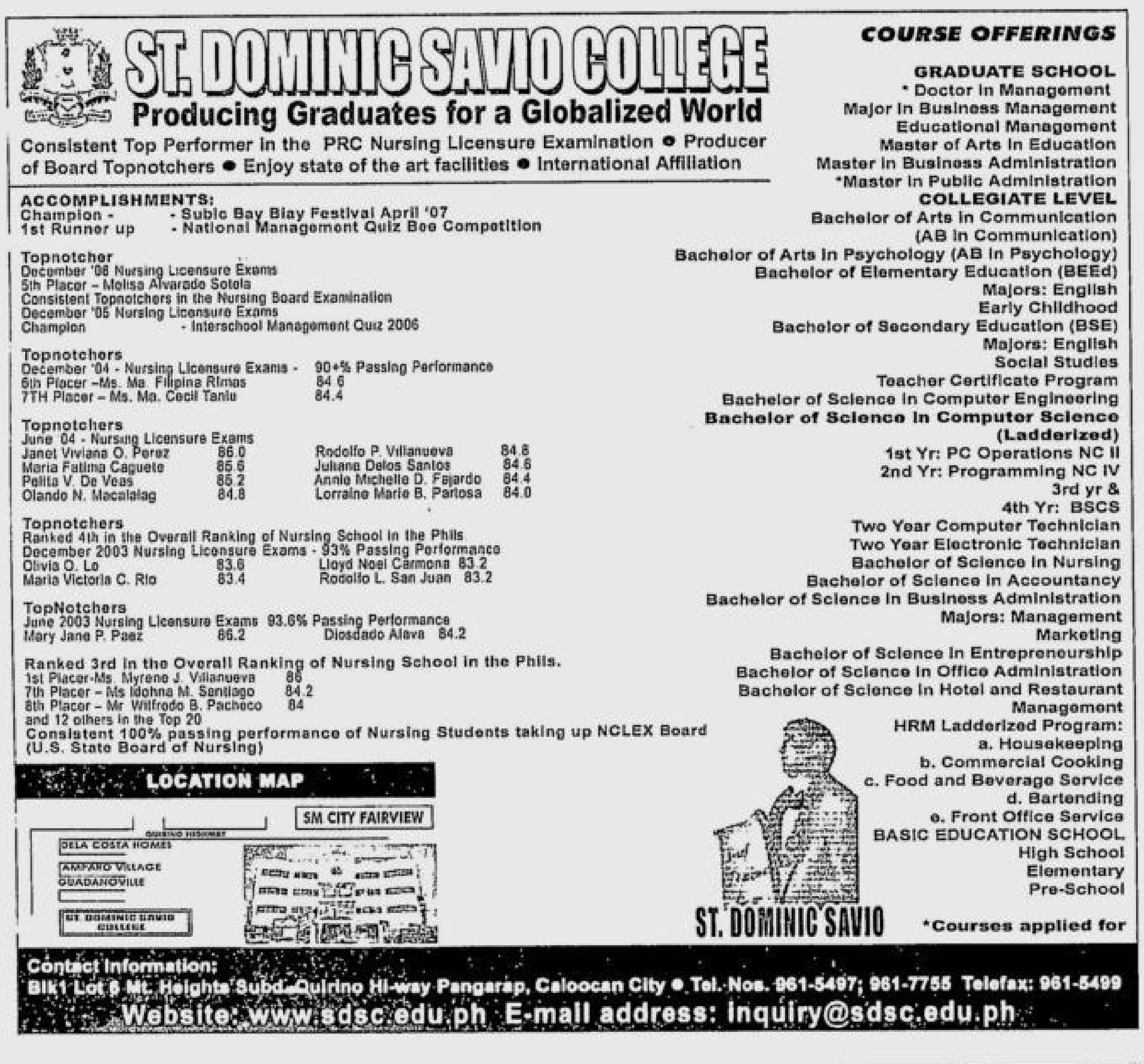
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December '05 Nursing Licensure Exams
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7TH Placer – Ms. Ma. Cecil Tanio 84.4

Topnotchers
June 04 - Nursing Licensure Exams
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Maria Fatima Caguete 85.6
Pelita V. De Veas 85.2
Olando N. Macalalag 84.8
Rodolfo P. Villanueva 84.8
Juliana Delos Santos 84.6
Annie Michelle D. Fajardo 84.4
Lorraine Marie B. Pariosa 84.0

Topnotchers
Ranked 4th in the Overall Ranking of Nursing School in the Phils
December 2003 Nursing Licensure Exams - 93% Passing Performance
Olivia O. Lo 83.6
Maria Victoria C. Rio 83.4
Lloyd Noel Carmona 83.2
Rodolfo L. San Juan 83.2

TopNotchers
June 2003 Nursing Licensure Exams 93.6% Passing Performance
Mary Jane P. Paez 86.2
Diosdado Alava 84.2

Ranked 3rd in the Overall Ranking of Nursing School in the Phils.
1st Placer-Ms. Myrene J. Villanueva 86
7th Placer – Ms Idohna M. Santiago 84.2
8th Placer – Mr Wilfredo B. Pacheco 84
and 12 others in the Top 20
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AMPARO VILLAGE
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Teacher Certificate Program
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Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (Ladderized)
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2nd Yr: Programming NC IV
3rd yr & 4th Yr: BSCS
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Two Year Electronic Technician
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Bachelor of Science in Accountancy
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
Majors: Management
Marketing
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Bachelor of Science in Office Administration
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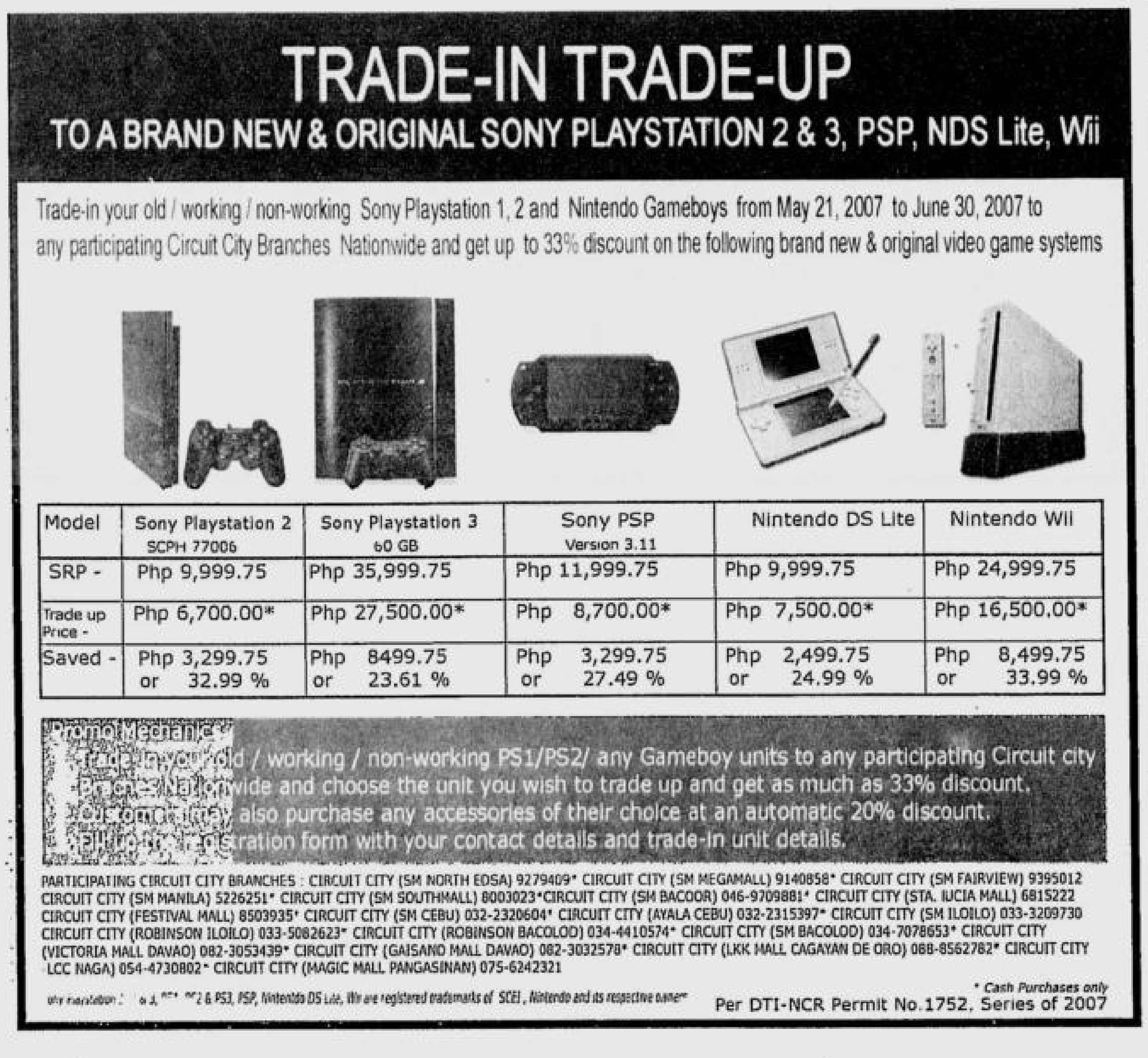
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Pacman loss elates fans

By Christian V. Esguerra

PACQUIAO

THIS IS ONE DEFEAT HIS FANS are cheering.

Boxer Manny Pacquiao's followers are rejoicing over the political knockout diminutive reelectionist Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio handed their idol in the congressional race in South Cotabato-General Santos City.

A "thread" or forum topic on Pacquiao's official website yesterday received several entries expressing relief they did not lose their champion to politics.

"This loss may be devastating for Manny, but the whole boxing world is rejoicing," wrote one fan. "This ensures that there will be a true boxing superstar to look up to in the next three years at least. To the electorate of the first district of South Cotabato ... thank you!"

Another fan thanked Custodio for beating Pacquiao, a political neophyte. "Thank you very much, Darlene!"

A fan who went by the name "eastern" advised his idol not to allow himself to be used by traditional politicians again for their selfish interests.

"Always think that they're only after your money and popularity," the fan wrote.

Mayor Pacman?

He, however, went on to tell Pacquiao to consider running for mayor or governor in 2013. The boxer was more fit for an executive rather than legislative post, he said.

Another fan questioned Pacquiao's fitness to return to the boxing ring after his loss in the political arena.

Reacting to a message posted by another fan, he wrote: "How can you be sure that Manny is the same Pacman after a disappointing loss in (the) election? His performance in boxing could decline."

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Custodio, in an interview with the INQUIRER on Wednesday, said Pacquiao's fans' ambivalence over his candidacy was part of the reason he lost.

"People really love him as a boxer and they don't want him to be hindered by politics," she said.

Wrong strategy

Custodio said Pacquiao's campaign strategy of focusing on "negative politics" might have been another reason for his loss. She said he erred in telling the people that she and her clan had done very little to uplift the lives of their constituents.

Pacquiao also often mentioned that his closeness to Malacañang would bring more progress to the district.

Custodio, a member of the opposition, had earlier said she had not been receiving her Priority Development Assistance Fund, or pork barrel, ostensibly because of her criticism of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

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Kin worry over MJ's wife

By Kristine L. Alave

SICK WITH WORRY FOR HER SAFETY, RELAtives of Carol Jimenez, the wife of ex-Rep. Mark Jimenez, yesterday appealed to him to have her released from a drug rehabilitation center and to take back his allegation that she was a drug addict.

Rose Flaminiano, Carol's sister who was with her when she was abducted by eight men in Makati City on Wednesday morning, said their family, including Jimenez's children, was very concerned about Carol's well-being and safety.

"We haven't had any word if she's safe, if she's okay ... We are really, really worried. I couldn't sleep last night," Flaminiano told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Flaminiano said Jimenez could have had her sister drugged.

On Wednesday, Jimenez denied kidnapping his wife, saying that he only wanted to save her and prevent his enemies from using her against him.

He said he had proof and the certifications of psychiatrists and psychologists that his wife of 30 years had been a drug dependent for several years.

Flaminiano angrily denied Jimenez's allegation.

"That is absolutely not true. All her doctors, even MJ's [Jimenez's] children, all her friends, know the truth. This is shocking," she said.

If there was anyone who needed to be treated for mental problems, it was Jimenez, Flaminiano said.

One of Jimenez's children who refused to be named also refuted the allegation. "Carol is not drug-dependent, that's for sure."

Carol was granted a temporary restriction order on April 13 by the Taguig Family Court against her husband after she said he had been physically and mentally abusing her since the 1970s.

Jimenez, a former Manila congressman, had also served as a "financial adviser" to deposed President Joseph Estrada. In 2002, he was extradited to the United States where he was imprisoned for over two years on tax and campaign fund violations.

In her sworn statement, Carol said Jimenez's abuse worsened after he returned to the Philippines in 2005. She told the court she had to undergo surgery after Jimenez threw a glass ashtray at her face. Jimenez, she said, also had an "exorcism" performed on her last year and threatened to kill her and their 13-year-old son.

Flaminiano said Carol, who is seeking a permanent protection order against Jimenez, suffered from seizures and needed to take medication every day. She also took prescribed medicines for anxiety and stress.

She said she and another sister, along with one of Jimenez's sons, tried to get Carol out of Silver Crest Foundation Inc., a drug rehabilitation center in Parañaque City, with the help of Makati City policemen who had been ordered by the Taguig court to get Carol out.

One of the center's owners is Diana Crespo, a niece of Jimenez's.

When they arrived at the facility, however, the police were met by a locked gate, Flaminiano said. The policemen could not break down the gate as the court order did not specify it, she said.

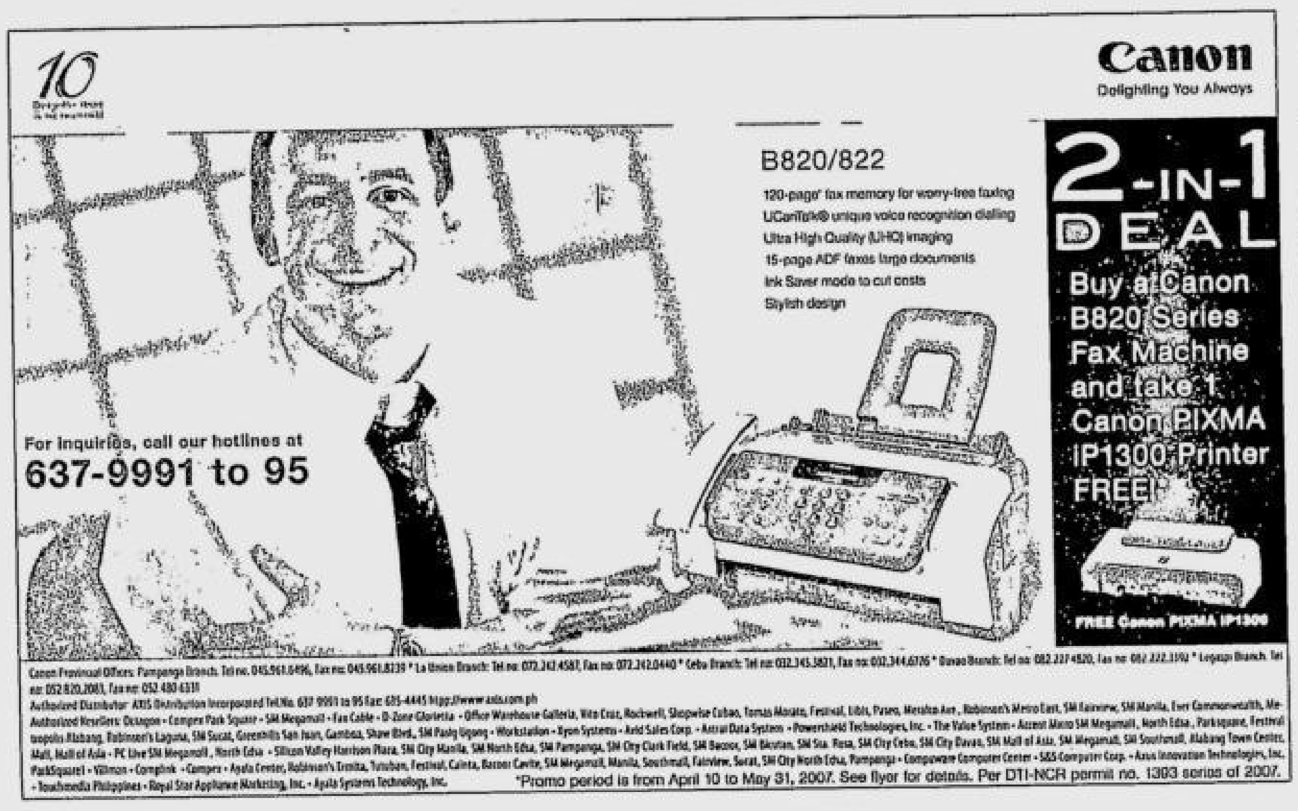
Except for the security guards, Flaminiano said there were no officials and patients at the facility as they had all gone to Batangas on an outing.

A guard confirmed to the INQUIRER that Crespo was one of the center's owners. He declined, however, to give any information about Carol.

Lorna Patajo-Kapunan, Carol's lawyer, said she would file a writ of habeas corpus in the Supreme Court to force Jimenez to release Carol and a motion in the Taguig Regional Trial Court citing Jimenez in contempt.

In her order of April 13, Taguig Executive Judge Amelia Manalastas prohibited Jimenez from coming within 200 meters of his wife, their son and her relatives.

Manalastas also barred Jimenez from "harassing, annoying, telephoning, contacting or communicating," with Carol and her family.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Gringo's legal woes continue

By DJ Yap

AS HIS COUP D'ETAT CASE RESUMES, SENAtorial candidate Gregorio Honasan is hopeful his newfound freedom through court-approved bail would not be temporary.

Honasan, who stands accused of leading the failed 2003 Oakwood mutiny, said yesterday he is optimistic that his bail would not be recalled by the Makati court hearing his case.

"I'm confident the case would be dismissed. I'm confident it's a level playing field because this is highly political," he said after yesterday's hearing before Judge Oscar Pimentel of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 148.

Honasan, whose application for bail was granted recently, said he remains hopeful the justice department's amended information would not be admitted in court.

On April 25, state prosecutors indicted him anew on coup charges, filing an amended information identifying him as a "leader, recruiter, commander and planner" of the mutiny staged by the Magdalo soldiers.

His bail application was premised on the fact that the complaint against him did not identify him as the group's leader, thus, he was accused only of being a participant to the coup—a bailable offense.

"If the amended information is admitted, the next course of action will be for the court to cancel Honasan's bail and order his detention," State Prosecutor Juan Pedro Navera said.

But Ma. Cherrie Cruz, Honasan's lawyer, said they would try to keep that from happening.

At yesterday's hearing, Honasan's arraignment on the charges in the amended information was deferred to give the justice department time to resolve their pending petition for review questioning the finding of probable cause in the case.

The prosecution did not pose an objection, prompting Pimentel to grant the order and give the department until June 14 to resolve the petition.

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8 Abu Sayyaf members yield

EIGHT ABU SAYYAF MEMBERS who claimed to have been trained as bomb makers by the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) terror group and were planning to bomb a shopping mall and the Rizal Park are now in the custody of the military after surrendering in Metro Manila last May 1.

As a gesture of good faith, the eight men—their ages ranging from 20 to 50 years—promised to help the government further by convincing 30 other members of their "sleeper cell" to surrender.

The men claimed that the group had already finalized plans to bomb SM Makati and the Luneta, said Maj. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, chief of the National Capital Region Command.

"They were ready to attack and were just waiting for their leaders to order them to carry out the bombings," Dolorfino said.

He said the 38-member group of Abu Sayyaf had been dispatched to the capital to plan attacks on shopping malls , public parks and the transport network, including commuter buses, trains and ferries.

Dolorfino said the eight men were trained by members of the JI in a camp in central Mindanao.

"These were members of numerous sleeper cells that would be activated when the need arises," Dolorfino said, adding that the elections just finished could have been an opportunity to stage the bombings.

Dolorfino said he was not surprised at the existence of the terrorist cell or its bombing plans as it was already well known within the military intelligence community that Muslim-led terror groups have infiltrated urban communities.

"That's why we're engaging Muslim communities, not just the urban poor. The purpose is to make these communities friendly and inhospitable to terrorists," Dolorfino said.

He said the surrender of the bomb makers was "one positive result of our deployment of troops in Metro Manila."

The eight men, including the group leader, surrendered on Labor Day to a team of soldiers that was deployed and had been staying for some time in barangay Islang Puting Bato in Tondo.

Since November 2006, soldiers have been deployed in 190 depressed communities in Metro Manila in what military officials said was a civil military training program

But the soldiers' presence in the city's slums alarmed militant organizations which claimed that the communities were not only being militarized but were also being dissuaded by the military from voting for leftist party-list groups.

Military officials have since admitted that the deployment of troops in the capital was part of its counterinsurgency measures to "win the hearts and the minds of the people."

The troops were withdrawn immediately before the May 14 polls, but they may soon return after the AFP completes its review of the deployment program.

Christine Avendaño

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TU, GO spokesmen clash over Chavit's No. 1 rank

From page A1

Maguindanao because they are my relatives and I have personal relations with them, but I was really surprised that Chavit Singson was No. 1. I was expecting that a Christian and a non-Mindanaoan would not fare that well in Mindanao," Tamano said.

While he acknowledged that Maguindanao and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao were administration bailiwicks, Tamano said the lone Muslim on the TU senatorial slate, Sultan Jamalul Kiram, would have been No. 1, based on historical and his personal experience.

Suspicious

"We are not saying that there was cheating. But for me, it seems to be an indication that there was cheating. Given the context, it seems suspicious and I think we should investigate," Tamano said.

Albano said that he was surprised that a Muslim would say what Tamano had said.

"You can see my face frown when Adel Tamano, a Muslim brother, is not helping with that racial slur saying a Christian cannot be No. 1 in Mindanao," Albano said.

"I will not say that a Muslim will not be voted No. 1 in a Christian community. Adel, I hope you apologize for that kind of statement," the TU deputy spokesperson said.

Albano said Singson was the top vote-getter because his platform, which advocates federalism or decentralization, would empower provinces like Maguindanao.

TAMANO: It's suspicious

ALBANO: Racial slur against Chavit

The TU deputy spokesperson said Kiram himself did not mind being No. 12 as long as he was part of the winning circle in the province.

Tamano, who tried to butt in unsuccessfully during Albano's tirade, replied by accusing Albano of twisting his words.

"I did not say a Christian cannot be No. 1. I said it was surprising. I am not a racist because I have no animosity toward Christians, obviously, because I am married to one," Tamano said.

"I am the Muslim here. Do not even attempt, for a person who is part of the Christian majority, to start labeling the Muslim a racist. That is really low. This is not the place to call each other racist," said Tamano.

"I know you (Albano) have practiced what you said for a long time."

In the post-conference interviews, the verbal sparring between the two went on.

Nothing to apologize for

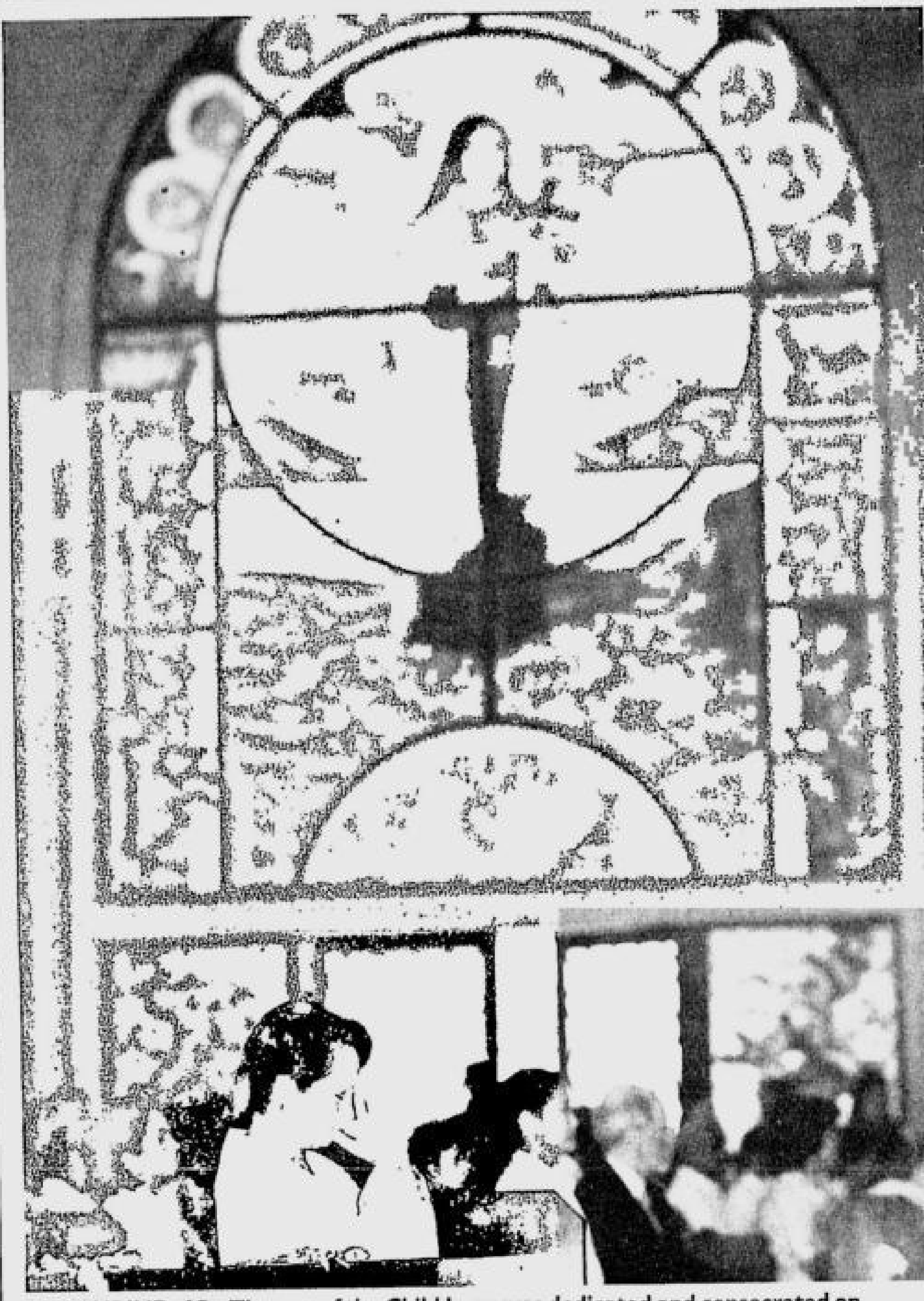
Tamano said he had nothing to apologize for because "the entire Philippines was also surprised" by Singson's feat.

"Should I apologize for that because I am a Muslim? He (Albano) was the one who labeled me a racist. I did not call him any names. They are the ones who have called me a liar and overpaid," the GO spokesperson said.

Albano claimed Tamano should not be surprised at how a Christian could win because there was no war between Christians and Muslims.

He said Tamano had been calling him and other TU candidates names throughout the elections.

"He (Tamano) never addressed us by our names. He just called us *tuta ni* (stooges of) GMA. It's sacrilegious," Albano said.



THE SHRINE of St. Therese of the Child Jesus was dedicated and consecrated on Thursday at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City. President Arroyo led the dignitaries who included the AFP top brass at the solemn rites. LYN RILLON

'No voting in Maguindanao'

From page A1

headquarters in Makati City.

The LP led by Sen. Franklin Drilon was chosen by the Commission on Elections as the dominant minority party, entitling it to the sixth copy of election returns (ERs) and other official election documents.

The GO campaign headquarters is relying on the LP canvassing.

(The LP encountered problems early on in the counting when a faction led by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza sent its own representatives to claim the official copy of the ERs on behalf of the party. But "the problem has been addressed," Asis said yesterday.)

Consultations

Norie Unas, speaking for Maguindanao Gov. Datu Andal Ampatuan, on Wednesday said that getting people to opt for block voting, such as straight TU, was an offshoot of the extensive consultations that the latter had been regularly conducting with local government units.

According to Unas, the consultations cover all aspects of governance and political affairs, including the people's choice of leaders.

Unas said conventional poll observers should look at Maguindanao's distinct political reality as a natural consequence of its leadership's adherence to Muslim culture and tradition of kinship and consultation.

But GO campaign spokesperson Adel Tamano scoffed at TU candidate Luis "Chavit" Singson's reported lead in the early results in Maguindanao.

"It does not only smell of cheating but also stinks to high heavens," Tamano, a lawyer and a Muslim, said yesterday.

He added: "Even assuming that Maguindanao is an administration bailiwick, why is Chavit—a Christian and not from Mindanao—No. 1, and [Sultan Jamalul] Kiram, who logically will be supported by his fellow Muslims and Mindanaoans, not No. 1 or even in second place?

"The 12-0 result in Maguindanao with Chavit as No. 1 speaks volumes about the credibility—or lack thereof—of elections in that area."

Another sweep

In Mabuhay, a town in Zamboanga Sibugay, TU also won 12-0.

Cesar Montano led with 5,577 votes, followed by Kiram (3,643), Singson (2,945), Juan Miguel Zubiri (2,920), Prospero Pichay (2,801), Edgardo Angara (2,726), Joker Arroyo (2,554), Ralph Recto (2,444), Michael Defensor (2,346), Vicente Sotto III (2,288), Vic Magsaysay (2,072) and Tessie Aquino-Oreta (1,945).

Mabuhay has a total of 9,810 registered voters.

A reelected member of the provincial board, who did not want to be identified for lack of authority to speak on record, denied there was cheating.

He said the local government hit the 12-0 target because of "a "well-oiled political machinery and well-organized village leaders."

He also said the opposing camps at the local level had campaigned for the TU candidates.

But it was a different story in other provinces.

In Bukidnon, which has about 601,000 registered voters, reelectionist Gov. Jose Ma. Zubiri told the INQUIRER that he never promised President Macapagal-Arroyo a TU sweep.

Zubiri, father of TU candidate Zubiri, said he informed Ms Arroyo before Election Day that he could not deliver a 12-0 win. "That is quite difficult," he said.

The governor said he included GO candidates Francis "Chiz" Escudero, Loren Legarda and Manny Villar—whom he descibed as possessing the qualifications of good public servants—in his sample ballots.

He said money was not involved in his move: "I campaigned for them because of the friendship I have forged with Chiz's father Sonny Escudero, Manny's brother-in-law, and Loren herself."

Zubiri's sample ballots did not include the TU's Singson, Kiram and Sotto.

Falsified votes

Retired Col. Hermenigildo Estrella, a convener of Bantay Boto, said Maguindanao and several other provinces named in Mercury Rising as alleged sites of election fraud had started delivering falsified votes to the TU senatorial candidates.

"Where are Trillanes and Honasan now? They're already down in the senatorial race," Estrella said in a phone interview, referring to GO's Antonio Trillanes IV and independent candidate Gregorio Honasan, who had made a good showing in the media quick counts.

"Wait till five more provinces start delivering the votes and you'll see the trend [currently favoring the GO candidates] start to change," he said.

As of 4:13 p.m. yesterday, Trillanes was in 12th place in the Comelec tally with 80,281 votes. Honasan is outside the top 12 with 79,237 votes.

The count of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) as of 11:47 a.m. yesterday had Honasan in 9th place with 1.474 million votes, and Trillanes in 12th with 1.416 million.

Estrella said the case in Maguindanao in the ongoing canvassing was the same as in 2004 when then opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr. scored zero in 19 municipalities in the province and neighboring Shariff Kabunsuan.

"Right now, we're collating our information so we can present a bigger picture. You wouldn't be able to appreciate it if it's just made up of separate incident reports," he said, adding:

"We're going to pass on our intelligence information and evidence of fraud to those who would be interested to file election protests. By ourselves, we don't have any personality to pursue a case."

Comelec officers

Asked what Bantay Boto intended to do with lawyer Lintang Bedol, the Comelec supervisor in Maguindanao, Estrella said: "It will be up to the groups who'd protest what to do with the information against him."

During its launch early this month, Bantay Boto said it would closely watch the Comelec directors and supervisors in 12 provinces and four regions listed in Oplan Mercury Rising.

Bedol, whose name was mentioned in the "Hello Garci" tapes as one of then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano's people in Mindanao, is among those listed.

The "Hello Garci" tapes contained alleged tapped conversations between Ms Arroyo and Garcillano discussing ways to rig the 2004 presidential election. Both have denied wrongdoing.

"We don't want to single out [members of the] administration for election fraud, but they are the ones being pointed to by Oplan Mercury Rising," said retired Commodore Ismael Aparri, a co-convener of Bantay Boto.

Aparri said the group had also received information on the supposed manufacture of more than 1,000 election forms meant to falsify the results in 20 provinces (eight more than those identified in the oplan).

"At first we received information on 12 provinces, then 14. Now we have information that there are 20," Aparri said without naming the eight new areas.

Estrella said Bantay Boto would try to preempt the fraud by announcing in advance how many votes the TU candidates would receive in the areas named.

Target provinces, regions

"[The results in] Maguindanao were within the forecast ... We will come up with a forecast for the other provinces identified in the [oplan]," Estrella said.

According to the alleged plot as detailed by Bantay Boto, massive cheating will be committed in the provinces of Ilocos Sur, Pampanga, Camarines Norte, Cebu, Bohol, Leyte, Eastern Samar, Lanao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao and Shariff Kabunsuan.

The regions supposedly identified for fraud operations were Central Visayas, Davao, Caraga and Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The identified areas, according to the oplan, have more than 14.7 million registered voters.

GO candidate Panfilo Lacson told the INQUIRER that "operators" identified with Gabriel Claudio, the President's adviser on political affairs, had arrived in the vote-rich Luzon provinces of Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Laguna and Cavite to conduct *dagdag-bawas* (vote-padding and -shaving).

"The van containing ERs that was caught in Pasig could be one of those involved in this operation," he said.

Lacson said the modus operandi of prefabricated ERs being switched with authentic ERs would once again be employed, this time for wholesale *dagdag-bawas*.

"We've passed on this information to the [Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting]. We're still trying to verify the names of these operators but they have been identified as the people of Gabby Claudio," Lacson said.

Blank spaces

In Marawi City, election monitors observed a low turnout of senatorial votes, as gathered from the certificates of votes (COVs) from several precincts.

"This means many of the ballots have blank spaces [in the senatorial lineup]," said Sinab Ibrahim, district coordinator of the Citizens Coalition for ARMM Electoral Reforms (Citizens CARE).

Ibrahim warned that these ballots could become a launching pad for doctored election results.

"Anybody can fill in those blanks," Ibrahim told reporters.

A review of the COVs obtained by election monitors showed a sparse turnout for the senatorial race, both in terms of votes garnered and number of candidates voted.

In one precinct in Marawi West, only Arroyo (TU) was voted, garnering 105 votes.

In most other precincts, there was a wide margin between the total votes for congressional or gubernatorial candidates and those for senatorial candidates.

Another precinct in Marawi showed the total gubernatorial votes at 171, and the senatorial votes at 48.

Votes for party-list groups were also few, with many precincts registering zero votes.

Among the party-list groups voted, Ang Laban ng Indiginong Filipino (ALIF) of the Marawi-based Tomawis family was getting high tallies.

Usual scenario

This scenario usually characterizes elections in Lanao del Sur, Ibrahim said.

He said much of the Maranao people's interest was focused on local positions being sought by relatives.

But local election monitors are worried that a "reworking" of the ballots may be done, especially during power outages.

On the average, Marawi experiences five daily power outages lasting from 15 minutes to an hour. *With reports from Grace C. Albasin, Ramil Bangues, Alvin Añonuevo and Ryan D. Rosauro, Inquirer Mindanao*

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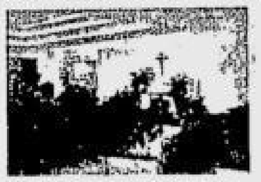
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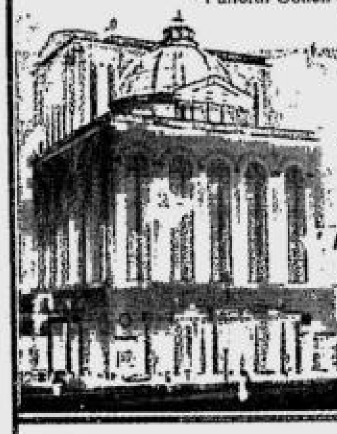

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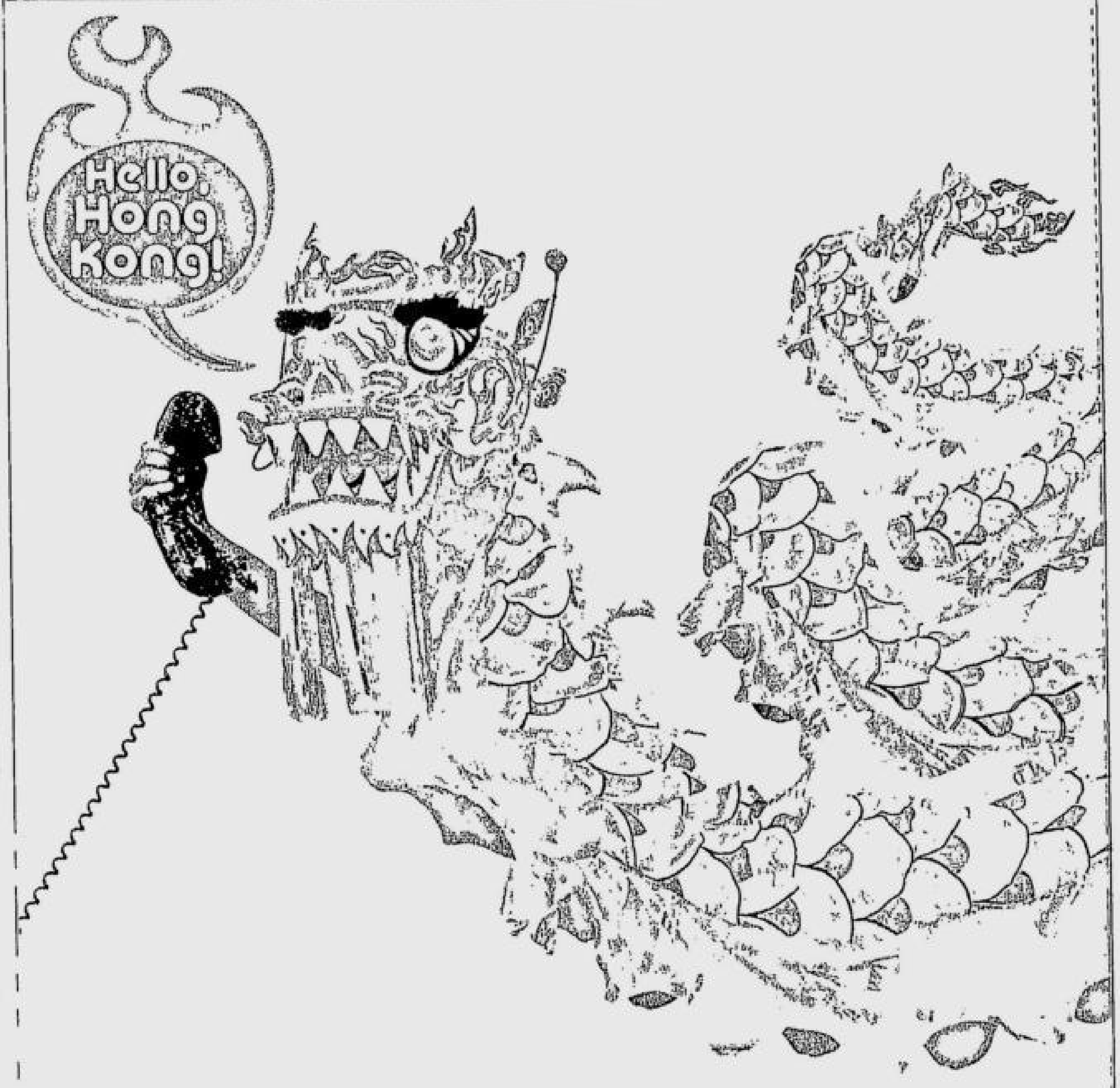
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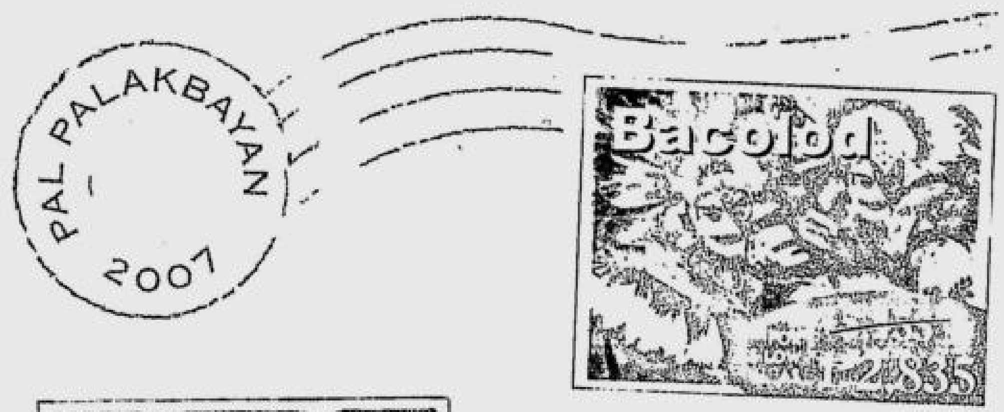

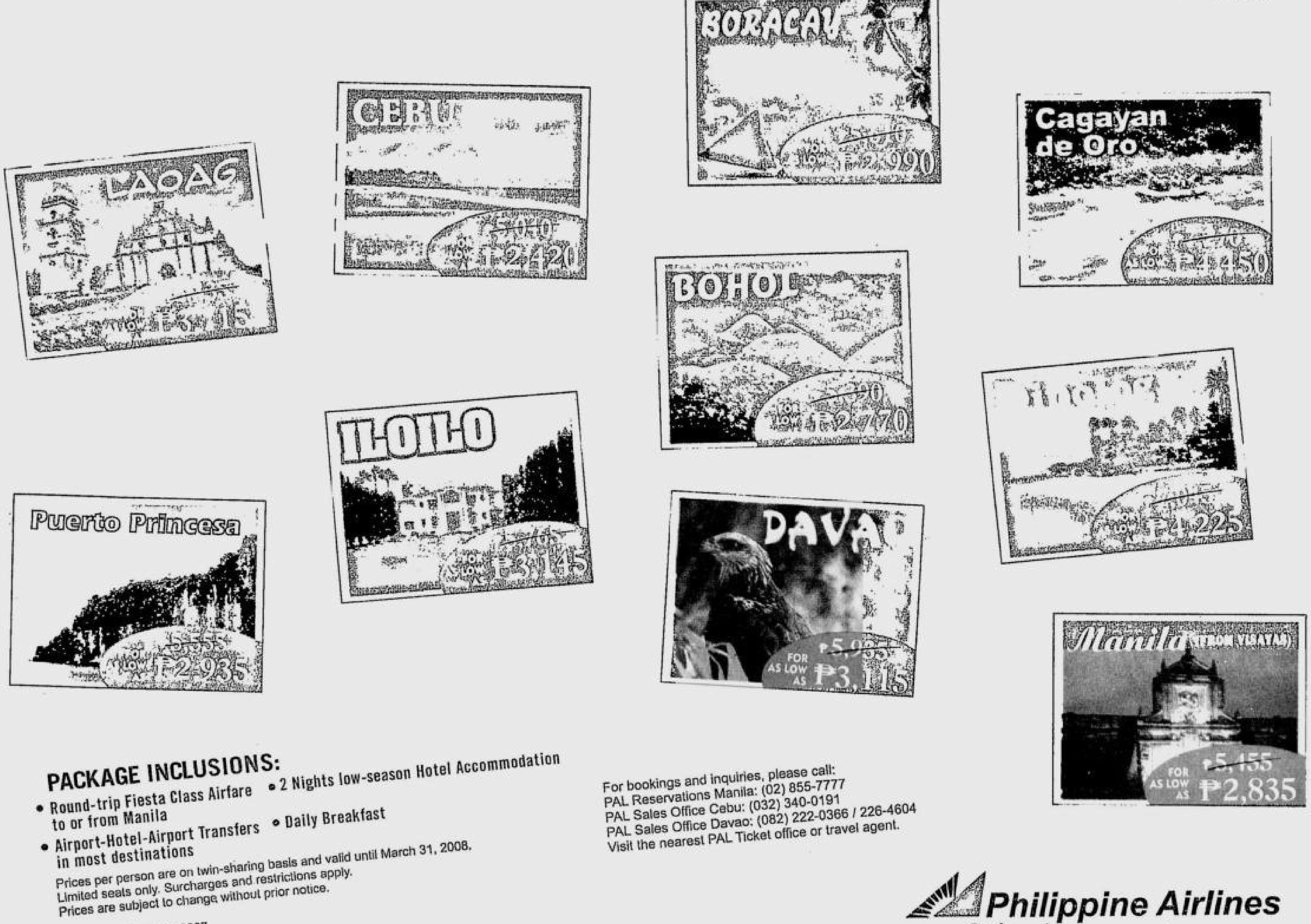

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Namfrel goofs; GO leads 8-2-2

From page A1

provinces and a city. *(See Table on front page.)*

Batch 11 showed Loren Legarda still leading the senatorial candidates, followed by fellow GO candidate Francis Escudero.

Panfilo Lacson (GO) was third and independent candidate Francisco Pangilinan, fourth.

Manuel Villar (GO) was fifth; Benigno Aquino III (GO), sixth; Edgardo Angara (Team Unity), seventh; Joker Arroyo (TU), eighth, and Gregorio Honasan, an independent, ninth.

Alan Peter Cayetano (GO) was at No. 10, followed by Aquilino Pimentel III (GO) at 11th place. Antonio Trillanes IV (GO) was at No. 12.

Gabriela maintains lead

Also yesterday, Gabriela maintained its lead in the party-list race with 61,589 votes. Bayan Muna had taken over second place with 54,188 votes, while Buhay was in third place with 53,910 votes.

Gabriela was also leading in the official count. *(See sidebar.)*

In the Comelec count as of 7:30 p.m., Legarda was leading after returns from Biliran, Batanes and Mandaluyong City were canvassed.

Trillanes was still hanging on to the 12th slot.

Escudero was a close second. Following him were Villar, Lacson, Pangilinan, Aquino, Cayetano and Pimentel.

TU's Arroyo, Angara and Ralph Recto occupied the 9th to 11th slots.

The returns from the following countries were canvassed yesterday: Switzerland, Fiji, Cook Islands, New Zealand, Australia, Vietnam, Belgium, Romania, Bulgaria, Indonesia, Mexico, Iran, China, Mongolia, France, Portugal, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau, Turkey, Cyprus, Yemen, Spain and Morocco.

No votes were cast in Monaco, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panama and El Salvador.

Haste resulted in vote-shaving

At a press conference, Namfrel chair Go said his haste, which was prompted by a desire to appease impatient reporters pressing for updates, resulted in the unintentional shaving of votes from nearly all the senatorial candidates in Metro Manila and three other regions.

The premature release of the tabulation also triggered unwarranted excitement among reporters who thought they had stumbled on a brazen case of "dagdag-bawas" (vote-padding and -shaving) right in the heart of Namfrel's nerve center.

Go said additional votes from Metro Manila, the Bicol region, Eastern Visayas and the Cordillera Administrative Region were subtracted instead of included in the running total for each candidate.

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THE NATIONAL BOARD OF CANVASSERS, headed by Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos (center) and made up of the other commissioners of the poll body (in photo at left) Nicodemo Ferrer and Rene Sarmiento, carries on with its work at the PICC Convention Center. The other members are Commissioners Resurreccion Borra (below, left), Florentino Tuason (middle) and Romeo Brawner (right).

ROGER MARGALLO

He cited as an example the case of Legarda, who had garnered 278,492 votes in Metro Manila in the Batch 9 report.

The subsequent report showed her getting only 273,104 votes in the region.

The same thing happened to the tabulations of nearly all the candidates in Metro Manila and the other regions.

Although the total votes of each candidate posted in the first column of Batch 10 were not affected by the error, the error caused a lot of anxiety among the watchers assigned by some senatorial candidates to monitor developments at Namfrel's headquarters at the La Salle gym in Greenhills, San Juan.

Six hours

It also caused a stir among some reporters, especially because Namfrel took nearly six hours to explain the foul-up.

"This is not due to a deliberate attempt to confuse the figures or create false results. There was no material change in the results of the elections. The important thing is that we have processes to check this," the Namfrel chair said.

Go told reporters that the mistake would have been discovered before hard copies of Batch 10 were made. "But I knew you were eager (for the latest update) so I authorized its release before the audit team checked it."

Should be cumulative

Go said volunteers in the field were instructed to update their reports by sending in the new total of votes each candidate garnered.

"It should be cumulative. For example, if a candidate earlier got 100 and 20 votes were added, the volunteer should send in the figure 120," he said.

Go said the errors happened because some volunteers only relayed the additional votes which, when substituted for the previous balance, resulted in subtractions instead of additions.

Unintentional

The Namfrel chair maintained that the errors were unintentional and "due to human factors."

"There is an audit process that catches these errors. The audit team caught them but Batch 10 was posted too early," he explained.

While the glitch was preventable, Go said: "I cannot say there will be no new errors but I can assure you there are ways to check them."

Montano's rise

In the Namfrel count, observers watched with curiosity as the ranking of Cesar Montano (TU) in the unofficial tabulation climbed four notches since the group's counting began.

Montano, an award winning actor, placed No. 17 with 1,187,959 votes as of 3:57 p.m. yesterday. He was No. 22 when Namfrel began releasing tabulation reports on Tuesday morning.

Montano's ascent was considered the quickest so far among TU senatorial candidates, despite his noninclusion in the Magic 12.

His stellar climb may be short-lived however, as it was credited to the influx of tabulation reports from Bohol, his home province.

Namfrel's afternoon report yesterday showed Montano ranked No. 1 with 297,566 votes in Central Visayas (Region 7) where Bohol is located.

As of early morning yesterday, Namfrel's second update for the day indicated that tabulations from Bohol were 79.94 percent verified and completed.

Most fickle of regions

Curiously, Region 7 has been the most fickle of all the regions on the issue of who was topping the tabulations in the area.

Legarda, Escudero and John Osmeña (GO), Angara and Prospero Pichay (TU) and Pangilinan had taken turns in being Region 7's senatorial topnotcher.

Pichay and Luis "Chavit" Singson (TU) were also climbing up in the Namfrel tabulations, but their rise was not as abrupt as Montano's.

Pichay started at No. 18 but was already at No. 15 in the afternoon count.

Singson began as No. 26 and was No. 23 in the same period.

Meanwhile, two GO candidates were slowly going down several notches as Namfrel continued with its tabulations.

Sonia Roco (GO) started at No. 13 when Namfrel released its first report early Tuesday morning. As of yesterday afternoon, she was down to No. 18.

Osmeña dropped four notches since the Namfrel tabulation began.

He was No. 16 in Namfrel's first report but was down to No. 20 yesterday afternoon.

With a report from Kristine Maguinay

PARTY-LIST VOTES

Namfrel as of 3:57p.m.
29,855 precincts out of 224,748

Rank	Party-list	Votes
1	GABRIELA	61,589
2	BAYAN MUNA	54,188
3	BUHAY	53,910
4	APEC	39,671
5	CIBAC	34,842
6	AMIN	30,457
7	AKBAYAN	28,012
8	ADD	26,389
9	COOP-NATCCO	24,300
10	BUTIL	23,493
11	ABAKADA	21,658
12	KAKUSA	19,966
13	BATAS	19,380
14	ABA-ILONGGO	18,798
15	ALAGAD	18,131
16	ANAKPAWIS	16,050
17	ANAD	13,781
18	ABS	12,896
19	ARC	12,892
20	FPJPM	12,653
21	KABATAAN	12,170
22	ABA-AKO	12,092
23	SENIOR CITIZEN	10,825
24	AN WARAY	9,968
25	ANAK	9,817
26	COCOFED	9,409
27	AA-KASOSYO	9,374
28	AGHAM	9,042
29	1-UTAK	8,985
30	VFP	8,901

Gabriela, tricycle drivers' group lead party-list race

By Jocelyn R. Uy

DIFFERENT STROKES FOR DIFFERENT folks.

The official Comelec tabulation of certificates of canvass (COCs) for the party-list elections as of 7 last night showed the militant women's group Gabriela and transport organization Biyaheng Pinoy on top of the race.

Gabriela was in the lead with 13,695 votes while Biyaheng Pinoy, a group of tricycle drivers, had 12,554 votes, which came from 25 countries, or 35 posts overseas, a province and a city in Metro Manila.

Biyaheng Pinoy, which only garnered 11 votes from abroad, was catapulted to 2nd place with 99 percent of the votes coming from Mandaluyong City. The group's first nominee, a doctor, is the elder brother of Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr., who is from Mandaluyong City.

Citizens' Battle Against Corruption (Cibac) ranked third with 9,194 votes while Buhay had 8,889 votes. An Waray ranked 5th with 7,423 votes, leaving Bayan Muna trailing behind with 6,766 votes.

Biliran, the island province in Eastern Visayas, delivered the votes for An Waray, which lagged behind during the canvassing of votes in the OAV with only 176 votes.

Akbayan placed 8th with 3,203 votes and Anakpawis, 13th with 2,604 votes.

The lesser known group called Akbay Pinoy OFW-National Inc. (APOI), which emerged first in the canvassing of COCs in the overseas absentee voting, found itself in the 20th spot with 1,427, after the local COCs—from Biliran and Mandaluyong—came in yesterday. *With Kristine Manguinay and Aaron John del Rosario.*

Bishop Soc angry: Bataan polls 'dirtiest'

From page A1

heard. What prevailed was the lure of money," said the two-page letter.

"This was the dirtiest election ever held in Bataan and the vote-buying, the opportunism and deception of the poor were unprecedented. Both the losers and the winners were at fault. The voters and those they voted for were both tainted. The Church and society are mourning this state of Bataan," the letter said.

Villegas and the priests said that while no one lost their lives in the election, there was the "death of many consciences, God's divine commandments were violated, and many souls were destroyed."

"What has happened that made us reach this low level of morality?" the letter said.

Electing the wicked

"For a province where almost everyone believes in God, how did it happen that we mocked ourselves in the face of temptations of easy money? For a province where all churches are filled each Sunday, how did it happen that we threw away our honor as children of God and elected as leaders the wicked and the deceivers?" it said.

Those who had sinned and committed immoral acts in the last election would not go unpunished, the letter said.

"God does not sleep. A nation that has no fear of God will be cursed to suffer in this world," it said.

According to the letter, the administration of candidates who "shamelessly pursued their wicked ways" will be "cursed" and the people who sold their votes can expect that those they elected will get back what they spent by raiding the nation's treasury or by promoting illegal gambling and other vices.

In a text message to reporters coursed through Peachy Yamsuan, spokesperson of the Archdiocese of Manila, Villegas said: "I am not against the winners. I am not favoring the losers. I am against the sin that accompanied our voting. We in Bataan must together examine our conscience and let us all admit that we have failed in honesty by our wrong deeds or by the good we did not do."

Yamsuan also said that according to Villegas, the candidates "were outbuying one another, at as high as P1,700 per voter."

VILLEGAS

Pampanga bishop calls for calm

By Jerome Aning

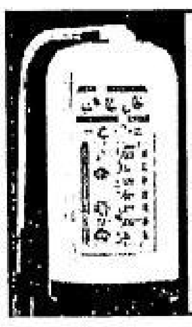
PAMPANGA'S ROMAN CATHOLIC Archbishop, Paciano Aniceto, yesterday appealed for calm in the province where tension and accusations of cheating abound with the ongoing canvassing of votes.

Speaking over Church-owned Radio Veritas, Aniceto said volunteers of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting have been told to guard all election returns amid concerns about the slowness of the canvassing.

"We're appealing to all groups to remain sober, prayerful and vigilant. We're not just guarding the ERs of one candidate, we're protecting the ERs of all candidates. Let's not use our emotion, let's use prayer in our watching," the archbishop added.

Aniceto called on the candidates to guarantee the integrity of the ballot and on the Commission on Elections officials to make sure all procedures are orderly and honest.

"As the canvassing concludes, we should be more watchful and vigilant because something might happen that could affect the credibility of the results of the elections here," he added.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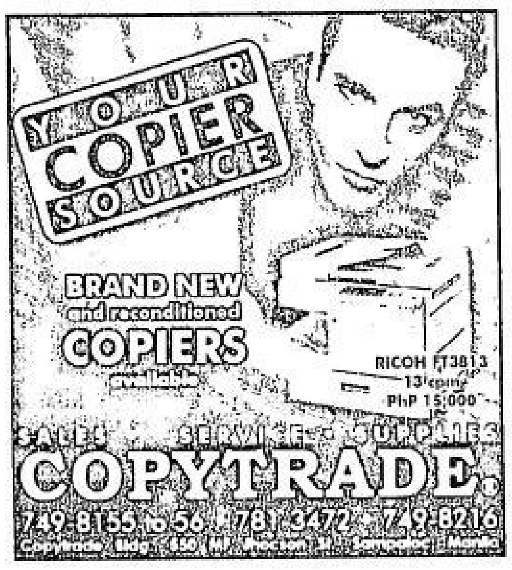
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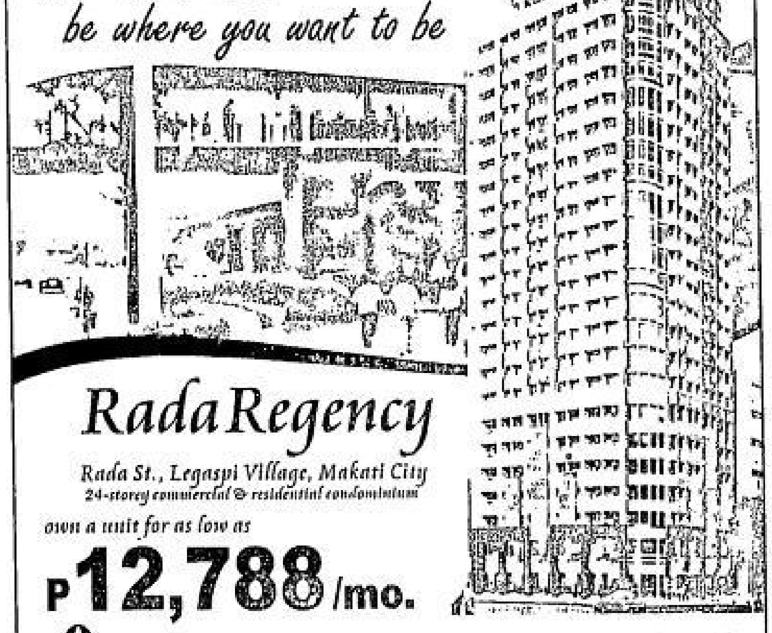
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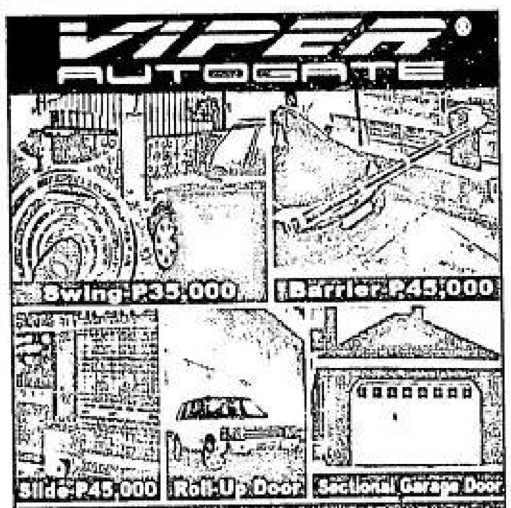
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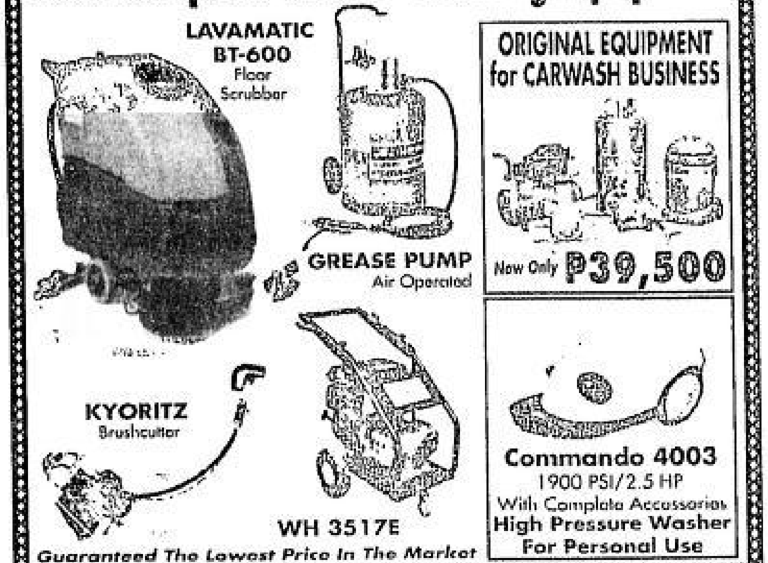
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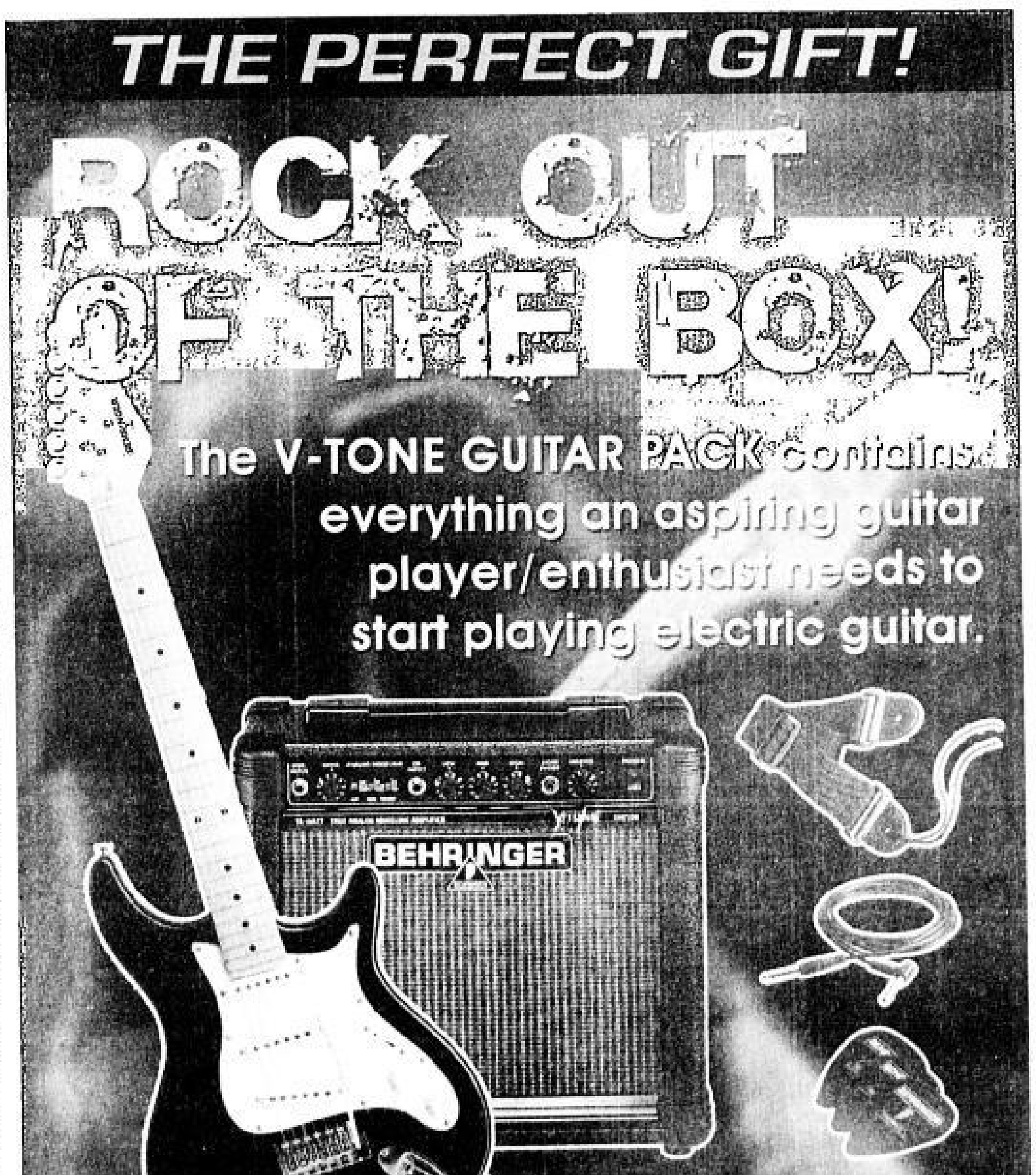
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All's not lost for Kapatiran; 'Gapo bet wins

By Christian V. Esguerra

A CHURCH-BASED PARTY'S ADvocacy for a new, God-centered politics has so far produced a winner in the May elections.

John Carlos de los Reyes, 37, of the Ang Kapatiran party, emerged second among 10 new councilors of Olongapo City with a total of 40,275 votes. The first-place winner led Delos Reyes by 250 votes.

Delos Reyes' triumph offered a ray of hope for Kapatiran in the face of the party's bleak finish in the senatorial race.

None of Kapatiran's three senatorial candidates—Martin Bautista, Jesus Zosimo Paredes and Adrian Sison—came within striking distance of the Magic 12, based on current, unofficial tallies of the National Citizen's Movement for Free Elections.

24 other bets

Kapatiran chair Manolo Dayrit said the party was still awaiting the results to find out how its 24 other candidates for local positions fared.

The party fielded candidates for congressman, mayor, vice mayor and councilor.

Delos Reyes has roots in traditional politics, being a nephew of Sen. Richard Gordon of the powerful Gordon political clan of Olongapo. He served a single term as councilor of Olongapo from 1995 to 1998, quitting after he completed his term.

"I was dismayed over the political system and I quit out of delicadeza," he said, admitting that his family was promoting a political dynasty in the city.

He admits to having run as a "guest candidate" of the Gordon slate in Monday's elections. The difference is that now he was running as a member of Kapatiran, he said.

Delos Reyes said his victory was a clear indication that people have begun embracing Kapatiran's advocacy, at least in the local level.

New politics

When it was formed by a group of lay Catholics in 2004, Kapatiran announced that it would push for a new brand of politics, one that puts God above personal and political interest, and a platform guided by the social teachings of the Church.

Kapatiran is probably the only party involved in this year's election that categorically rejects the graft-ridden congressional pork barrel, while promising to penalize its candidates should they fail to deliver.

Delos Reyes said he found no difficulty communicating the party's principles among Olongapo voters. He said he did so primarily through a Tagalog poem centered on "justice." It was written in some 10,000 paper fans distributed during the campaign.

He said he spent only about P80,000 for his campaign.

"I told the people that I offered a new kind of politics, one that involved no debt of gratitude but only what's good and what's right for them," he told the INQUIRER.

"It's a kind of politics that would put up a working system for the people, especially the poor."

Delos Reyes said the message of Kapatiran would be best communicated at this time in the grassroots where people can actually meet the party's candidates.

"They really need to hear you and feel your heart," he said.

This would be hard to do on the national level as candidates naturally cannot meet every single individual, and was probably the reason why Kapatiran's senatorial candidates failed, Delos Reyes said.

Delos Reyes said he is a graduate of theology from the Franciscan University in the United States, on top of finishing law the St. Louis University in Baguio and public administration at the University of the Philippines.

Loren calls for vigilance

By Norman Bordadora

FORMER SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA YESterday called for continued vigilance to ensure the integrity of the canvassing of the votes following May 14 elections.

"We cannot lower our guard. Not today, not tomorrow. We should not give anyone the opportunity to subvert the true voice of the electorate," Legarda said.

Credible election a must

Topping the Commission on Elections tally as of 4:13 p.m. yesterday, Legarda said the results of the election must be credible if the Philippines is to achieve political maturity and sustainable economic growth.

She said that vigilance against electoral fraud must continue at the various canvassing stages until all the votes had been counted at the national level.

"We cannot give post-election operators any room to maneuver at this stage," Legarda said.

Patriotism and sacrifices

Legarda credited the thousands of public school teachers who oversaw the elections at the precinct level for "the patriotism they displayed and the sacrifices they made."

"I was really saddened hearing reports that some teachers were even killed doing their duties. The government must extend all assistance to those they have left behind," Legarda said.

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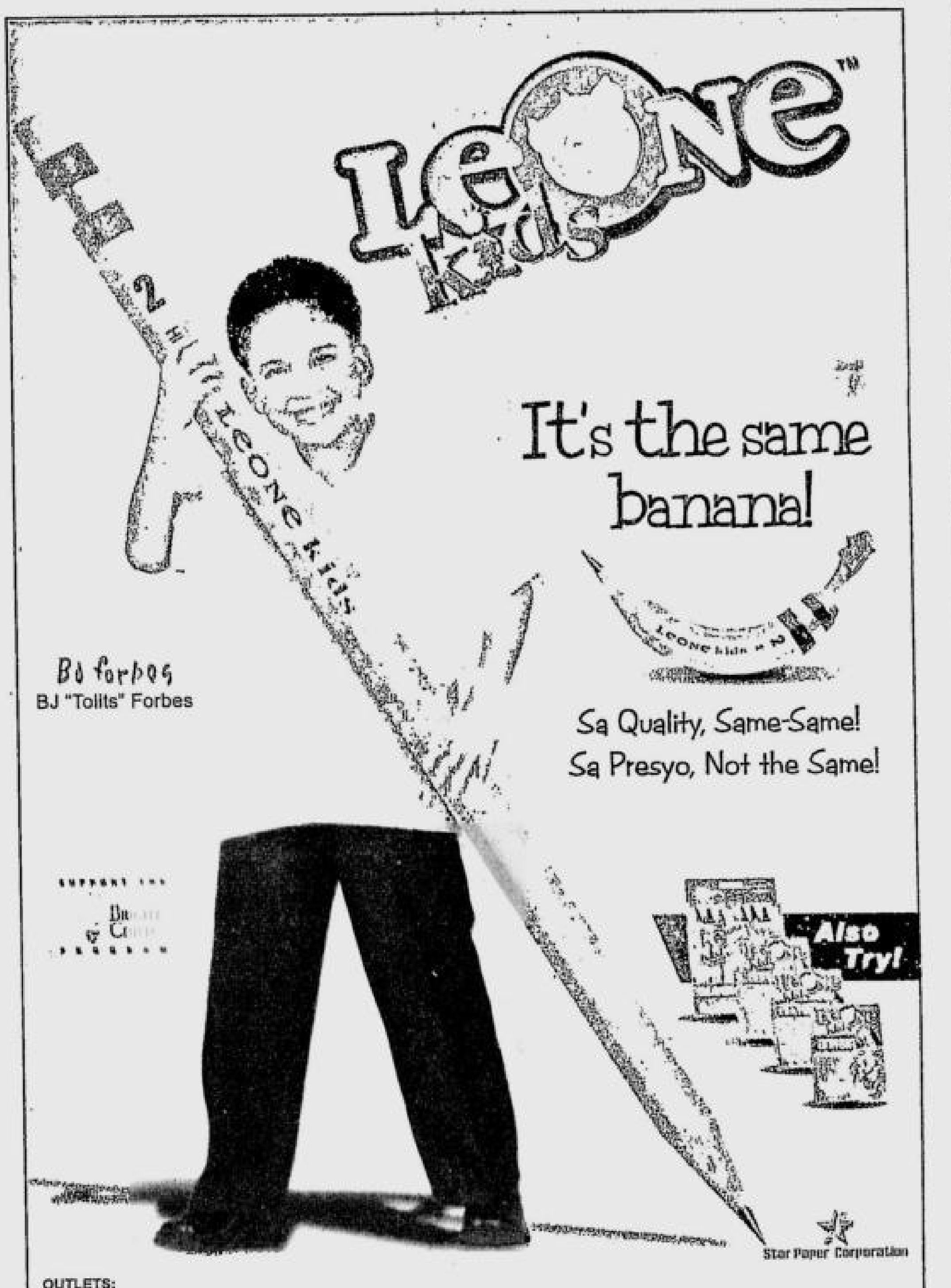
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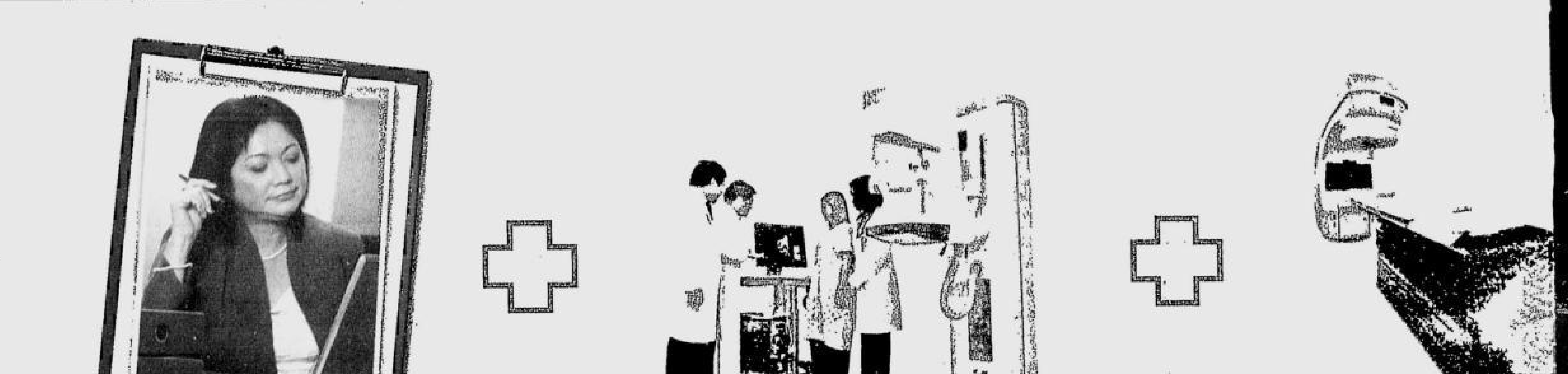

Evangeline Zamora on Health Partnership at The Medical City Cancer Center

"Last year, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Ha
doctor who could do this procedure at The Medica
well. I felt empowered and in control of my situati

It's Joselito's turn to take Comelec to SC

By Leila B. Salaverria

WHILE HIS NAMESAKE CONTINUES TO MAKE a good showing in the official counts, Joselito Pepito Cayetano is continuing the battle to hold on to his senatorial candidacy, petitioning the Supreme Court yesterday to nullify his disqualification by the Commission on Elections.

Joselito also wanted his name retained in the official list of senatorial candidates and for the votes cast for him to be counted.

Even though the Comelec upheld its decision to disqualify Joselito, his name could not be removed from the list of candidates as he still had the right to appeal the ruling before the high tribunal.

The Comelec said "Cayetano" votes would be considered stray votes, drawing a protest from Genuine Opposition candidate Alan Peter Cayetano who had sought Joselito's removal from the race.

Alan accused the Comelec of confusing the voters by retaining Joselito's name on the list.

In his petition before the high court, Joselito said the Comelec erred in disqualifying him because of his alleged inability to launch a nationwide campaign.

Poverty no reason

He said that based on the qualifications for a senatorial candidate enumerated in the Constitution, he was qualified to run. He said the Comelec was wrong to cite poverty as a reason to keep him out of the race.

He also said there was no ill-motive or bad faith when he filed his candidacy, adding that when he registered he did not know that Alan, the Taguig-Pateros congressman, would also be seeking a Senate seat.

He said Alan was only questioning his candidacy because he was insecure about his own standing.

"He is not that confident and not as popular as he thinks he is. He is just riding on the popularity and recall of his family name. Had he been that popular by his own right and merit, he would not have been afraid to face me," Joselito said.

Joselito also said he can and has been campaigning as shown by the paid advertisements he took out in the national dailies. He also pointed out that he was running under the Kilusan Bagong Lipunan, which he said was a tried-and-tested political party.

He also boasted of his standing in the surveys, claiming that they placed him ahead of some of the candidates of the major parties.

Joselito also said the similarity of his surname with that of Alan and the inconvenience this supposedly had caused the latter was no reason to disqualify him.

He said he was also suffering from the similarity of his family name with that of Alan's.

His intention to seek a Senate seat "should not be suppressed for the reason of inconvenience," the petition said.

As to his choice of the nickname "Peter," Joselito said Alan has no monopoly of the name.

He also said that because Alan was claiming that his full name "Alan Peter Cayetano" had become a household word, "surely, the voters who want Alan Peter, Cayetano to win will write Alan Peter Cayetano ... meaning the confusion feared by both the public and private respondent has no basis in fact and in law."

JOSELITO CAYETANO: Poverty no reason to disqualify.
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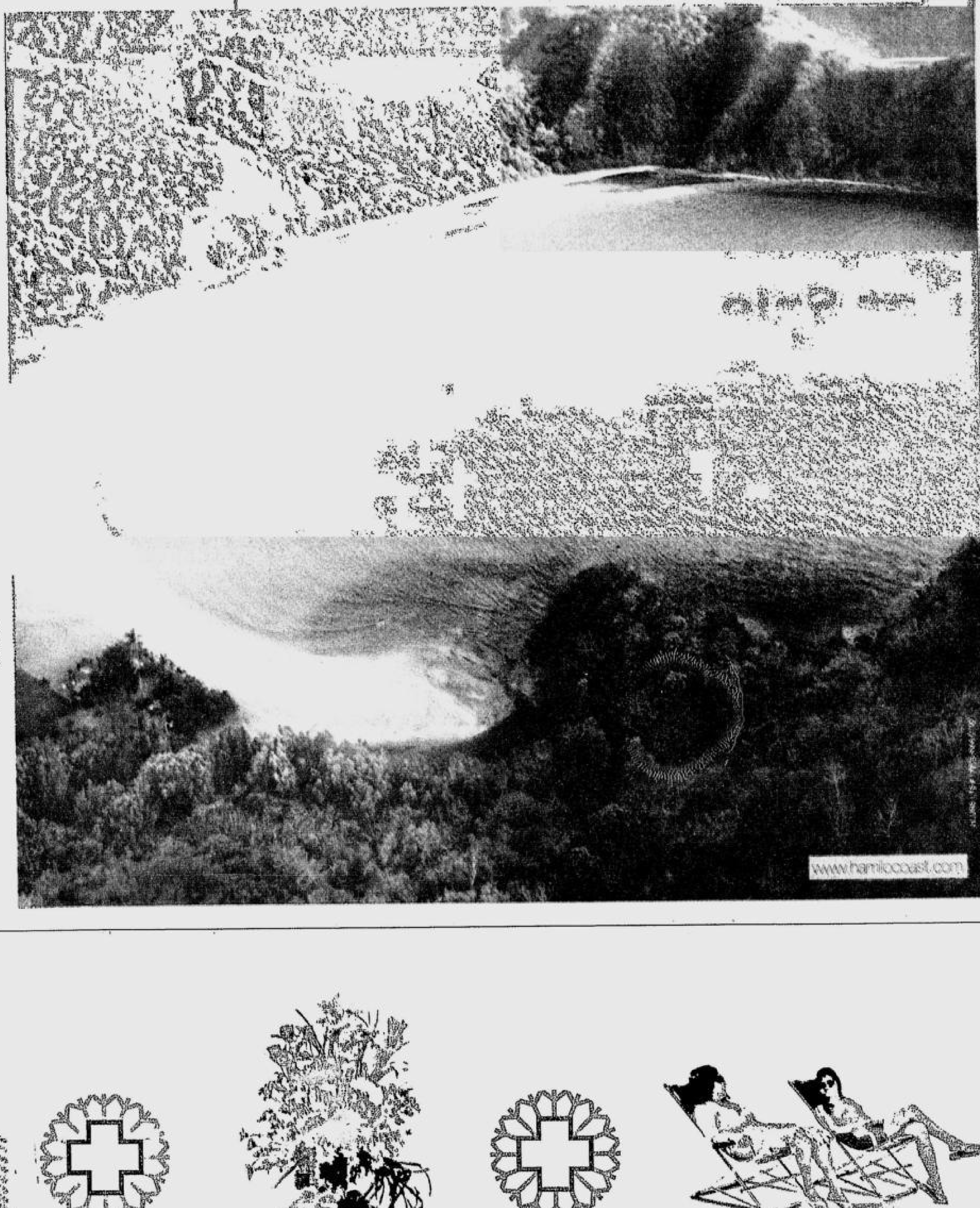

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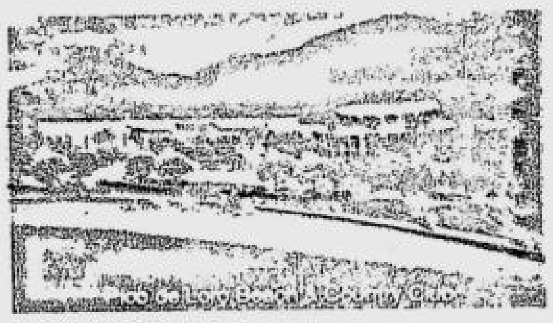

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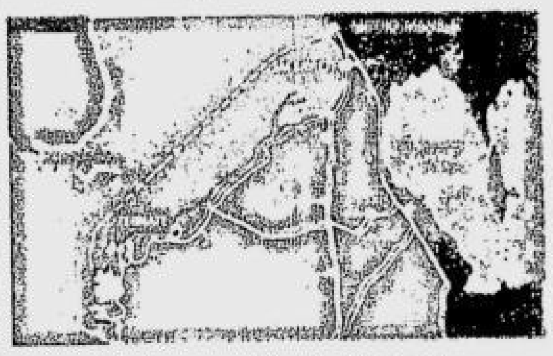

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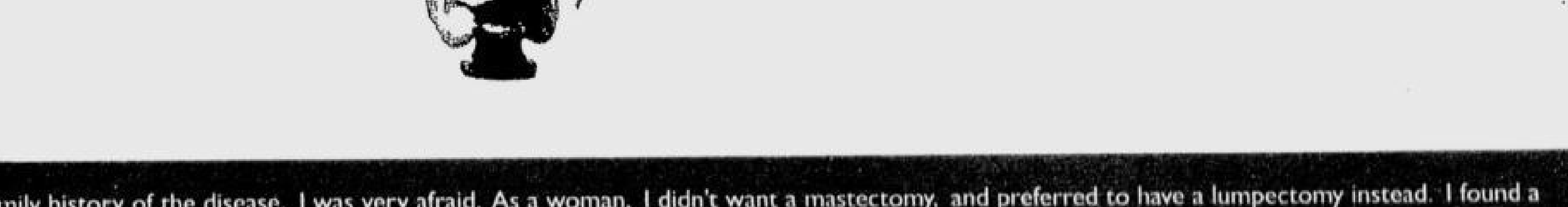

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Conspiracy

EDITORIAL

TEAM UNITY SPOKESMAN TONYPET ALBANO holds a press conference, insisting that the "command votes" are rolling in. That same day, a 12-0 result is announced for Maguindanao—thus allowing some mayors, as reported on ABS-CBN's "Bandila," to collect the P1-million bounty offered by Gov. Datu Andal Ampatuan Sr. to those able to "deliver."

In any other country calling itself democratic, the senatorial candidates of Team Unity, their spokesman, their lawyer Romulo Macalintal, and their allies the governor and the mayors would all be indicted for conspiracy to commit electoral fraud. But this is a country where the only difference between a provincial governor and a secretary of justice (Raul Gonzalez) is that the governor's bounty is 100 times larger than the secretary's.

Last April, we wrote about the public being conditioned by the administration to believe that whatever the exit polls reported, and the media counts portrayed, would be offset by the "command vote." The fury with which administration spokesmen have reacted to media counts is part of that conditioning (and to that must be added the voice of the Commission on Elections, which ordered an end to media counts).

The latest manifestation of this conditioning is the President's crowing that she retains control of the House—as if it were a feat, which it is not. Since 1907, when the Federalistas lost to the Nacionalistas, no ruling party has ever lost control of the House. Ever. And no administration—we repeat, none, since 1935—has ever lost control of the House of Representatives.

True, some presidents have faced defeat at the polls, but their parties retained control of the House. And this has happened only four times:

- In 1953, when Magsaysay won the presidency for the opposition Nacionalista Party, while the administration Liberal Party kept control of the House.
- In 1961, when Macapagal won the presidency for the opposition LP, while the administration NP kept control of the House.
- In 1965, when Marcos won the presidency for the opposition NP, while the administration LP kept control of the House.
- In 1998, when Estrada won the presidency for the opposition coalition LAMMP, while the administration Lakas kept control of the House (Estrada later lost the presidency in part because he starved his new majority in the House, a mistake Arroyo avoided).

In all four cases, the new presidents quickly raided the ranks of the opposition-dominated House, and established comfortable majorities there. But the point is: the only time presidents lose the House is when they lose the presidency.

The conditioning, of course, depends on ignorance of our country's electoral history, not only by the public but by the political class. As we've pointed out, the first lesson is that no administration ever loses the House. The second lesson is that every senatorial election in the middle of a president's term is a referendum on the incumbent president. It was so in 1947 (only one of Roxas' candidates didn't make it), in 1951 (all of Quirino's candidates lost), in 1955 (all of Magsaysay's candidates won), in 1959 (Garcia got 5 out of 8 candidates elected), in 1963 (only half of Macapagal's senatorial slate made it), in 1967 (all but one of Marcos' candidates won, the exception being Ninoy Aquino), in 1971 (all but one of Marcos' candidates lost) and in 1995 (Ramos' candidates got 10 out of 12 slots).

These elections were the writing on the wall: they foretold Quirino, Garcia and Macapagal's defeat; probable reelection for Roxas and Magsaysay and actual reelection for Marcos; and the need for martial law because of his 1971 senatorial collapse.

The present Senate race, any way you look at it, represents a vote of no confidence in the President in the only election that can be a true measure of national, public opinion. By all accounts it could have been a debacle on the level of the Quirino and Marcos defeats in 1951 and 1971 had the opposition put together a stronger slate. Indeed the post-election question has to be: if the opposition threw away its opportunity to do even better in the Senate, what more if it had actually put up a proper challenge in the House?

The administration, after all, embarked on eliminating the congressmen who had cut a high profile in the efforts to impeach the President. There was no victory for the presidency here; only a senatorial defeat.

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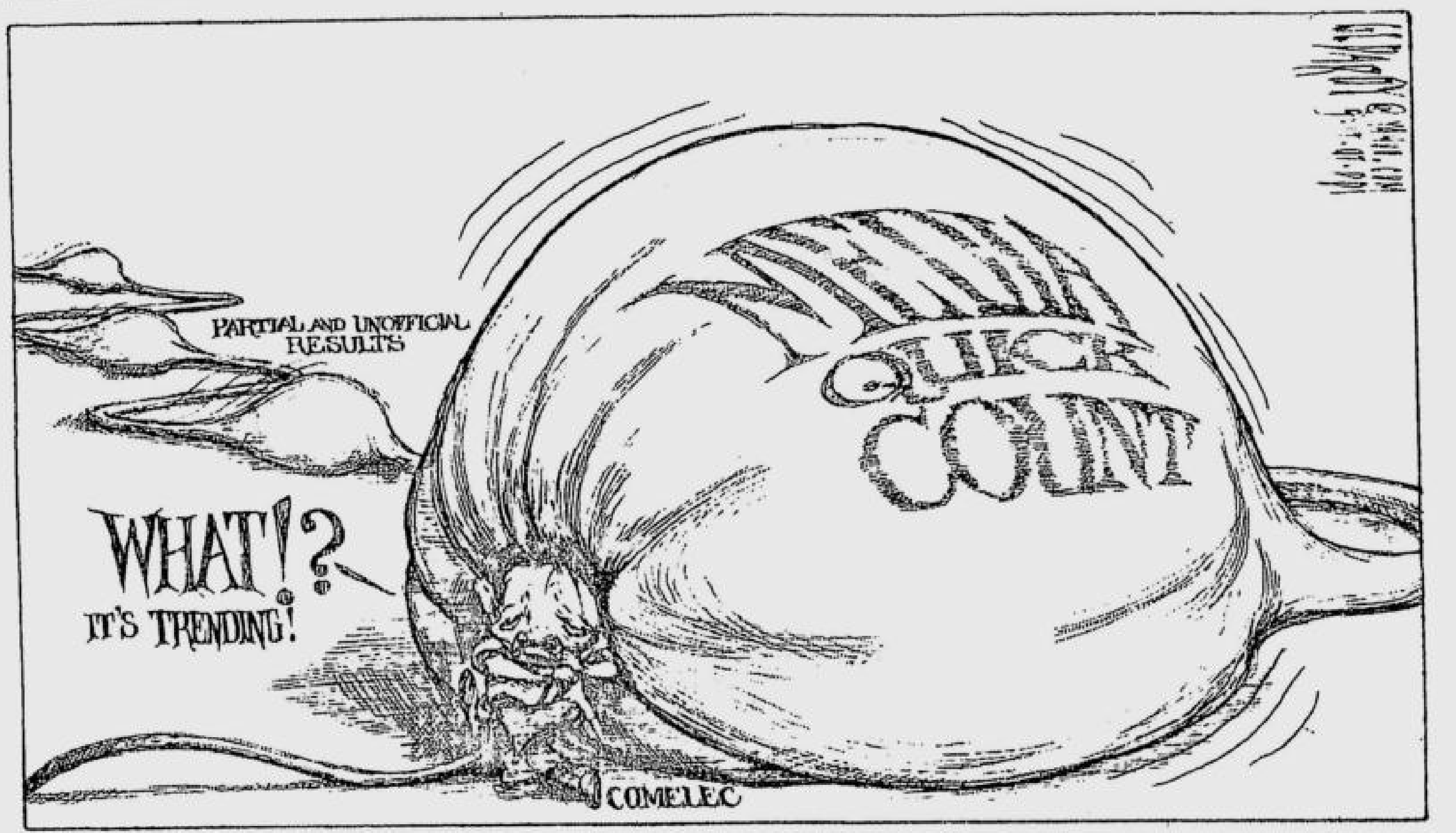

153 dead in polls—and they call that peaceful?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE ELECTIONS WERE "GENERALLY PEACEFUL," said President Macapagal-Arroyo, the Philippine National Police and the Commission on Elections. At least 153 killed—10 on election day alone—and 116 injured in election-related violence, and they call that peaceful? Not even one person should be killed in a really peaceful election.

* * *

Counting of the votes in the last elections hasn't been completed yet but the campaign for the 2010 presidential elections has already begun. In fact, it started long before the first ballot was cast.

Did you notice that Sen. Mar Roxas ran television commercials although he was not a candidate? That is to refresh the minds of the voters, so they will not forget him. Did you notice that the commercial was shot in a market? That is a continuation of the successful "Mr. Palengke" image that made Roxas top the 2004 senatorial elections. That feat made Roxas a presidential contender in the 2010 elections.

Another senatorial topnotcher, Loren Legarda, whom the surveys say will again top this year's polls, is another presidential contender. What's more, many people think she won the vice presidential polls in 2004 but was cheated. Indeed, she proved before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal that election returns from provinces in the south were spurious, but time ran out on her. It is a disgrace to the electoral tribunals and the Comelec that resolution of electoral protests take so long and require so much money that by the time the protester is proclaimed only a few days of his term remain. This injustice may make more people vote for Loren in 2010.

And did you notice that black propaganda was unleashed against Loren before the polls? That did not come from Team Unity. It came from certain teammates in the Genuine Opposition. Why would they do a dastardly thing like that? To pull her down from the top position in the Senate race to lessen her impact in the presidential derby. Who are the teammates who did that? Those with presidential ambitions, who else?

Another presidential contender for 2010 is Manny Villar, who inherited the presidency of the Nacionalista Party from Salvador Laurel. Villar wanted to be the topnotcher in the just-held senatorial elections. But although he became one of the two topnotchers in election spending (the other is Prospero Pichay), particularly on TV commercials, neither of them is performing outstandingly in the poll results.

And did you notice that Villar's TV commercial is a copy of Roxas' "Mr. Palengke" commercials?

Another contender is Ping Lacson. He already ran for the presidency in 2004 and finished third, behind FPJ and GMA. It is almost sure that he would try again in 2010, hoping that he would be luckier the second time around. After all, he has said that he prefers to be an administrator rather than be a member of a debating society which the legislature is.

And of course there is Vice President Noli de Castro. His present position automatically makes him a contender for the administration's presidential nomination—if he has the stomach and self-confidence for it. (He can't be reelected vice president.) If he is chosen by the administration and Loren is chosen by the opposition, it would be a return bout between them. That would be an interesting match.

* * *

Here is an update on the four interesting fights to watch that I mentioned in my May 11 column.

The happy headline that I had hoped for has come true. "Darlene knocks out Pacquiao," read the INQUIRER's front page last Wednesday. That little wisp of a darling of the Antonino-Custodio clans is indeed clobbering the featherweight icon by a margin of two votes to one.

This defeat may be good for Pacman; it should put him back to earth. His head has swelled so much that he is floating on air. The voters of South Cotabato pricked that balloon and dropped Pacman when it burst.

In a sense, Pacman's disgrace is the fault of the media. The sportswriters and sportscasters were so adoring of Pacman that he began to believe he was God's gift to humanity. Of course, Malacañang is also to blame. It egged the *uto-uto* Pacman to run for congressman, probably assuring him that it would make him win. They did not figure that South Cotabato folk were intelligent voters after all. The voters figured out correctly that Manny would not be able to represent them effectively in Congress. He would be away most of the time when he is training for his fights. During that time, he would continue to collect his salary and allowances which come from the taxes they pay.

Manny's job as congressman would be to make laws. But how can he do that when he doesn't know the first thing about making laws?

Pacman's defeat can be a blessing in disguise. GenSan folk say he has changed. He has become more uppity and *mayabang*. Maybe his defeat will restore him to his old, likable and humble ways.

* * *

In Pampanga, Fr. Ed Panlilio is ahead of the "quarry king" and "jueteng queen" in the gubernatorial race. But late Wednesday night, Lilia Pineda, wife of suspected jueteng lord Bong Pineda, announced that she would soon be proclaimed winner by the Comelec.

"Not true," said Father Panlilio. He is still winning, he said, and called on the voters to be vigilant and guard their votes.

That's the good news. The bad news is that in Pangasinan, Speaker Jose de Venecia is leading Dagupan City Mayor Benjie Lim. The silver lining is that with JDV back in the House, he would almost certainly be its Speaker again. That means Luis Villafuerte won't be Speaker. JDV is certainly less uncouth than the Bicolano.

What does the Honasan-Trillanes vote mean?

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

THE POLLS HAVE JUST CLOSED, THE OFFICIAL canvass far from final, but initial results show a strong showing by two rebel soldiers identified with past coup attempts: former Army Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan and Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV. Why did more than a million Filipinos vote for two men standing trial for plotting to overthrow President Macapagal-Arroyo, one (Trillanes) currently behind bars and the other (Honasan) recently out on bail?

District and provincial politics may reflect the more local concerns and the familial alliances of dynasties and warlords, but nationwide senatorial politics are an index of the mood of the nation. With the 8-2-2 pattern that is emerging—eight opposition, two independent and two administration candidates—the Filipino voter sends a message of rejection to the President. Indeed, you need not look at the winning opposition senators and independents. Look rather at the winning administration candidates thus far, former UP president Edgardo J. Angara and human rights lawyer Joker Arroyo; both can stand independently of GMA and, given the right conditions, probably will.

But if the senatorial elections were a referendum on Ms Arroyo, what was the implied referendum question? Was it: "Do you approve of the government of President Arroyo?" (I shudder when I recall the Marcos-era referendum question: "Would you like President Marcos to continue the reforms needed to build a New Society?"—and a supine nation resoundingly voted, "Yes, please!")

If it was, the impending victory of 10 non-administration candidates should tell us that the answer is, "No, we reject Arroyo." But the expected triumph of Gringo—SWS placed him in the magic 12, ranking him 7th overall, as against his current rank of 8th in the partial results—and the probable upset victory of Trillanes answer an entirely different question altogether. It pertains not to whether we reject Ms Arroyo. It pertains rather to the "how" of rejecting.

The Honasan-Trillanes vote shows a voter who is prepared to get rid of President Arroyo whatever it takes. It helps that the two are Philippine Military Academy graduates, untainted by graft and corruption, and who to the lay public embodied certain ideals for which they have made personal sacrifices. At least 1.3 million voters so far have cast their lot with two former coup plotters and, irony of ironies, would now reward them a fully constitutional way of expressing their rage.

Yet that doesn't explain the Honasan-Trillanes vote completely. This attitude is but a symptom of a deeper malaise, one that has "numbed the Filipino" to the dangers of taking legal shortcuts. The Arroyo government has so strained the fabric of the rule of law, and pushed legal technicalities to breaking point, that it has undercut the legitimating power of the Constitution.

If Malacañang can repeatedly flout the law, why should it matter if we all flouted the law ourselves, but for good causes rather than bad? Why should Gloria have a monopoly on short-circuiting the Constitution—while the rest of us scrupulously but helplessly chant the Bill of Rights? Two can play the game, plus Honasan and Trillanes' 1.3 million and counting.

Significantly, as Honasan receives a resounding fresh mandate from the sovereign, his lawyer Daniel C. Gutierrez defended him before the Department of Justice against coup d'etat charges relating to the August 2003 Oakwood mutiny. Gutierrez had earlier secured Gringo's release when Makati Judge Oscar Pimentel granted bail. Four days later the prosecution upgraded the charges. First, they had tried to charge him as the instigator and planner of the Oakwood caper, but having been rebuffed with the granting of bail, they then charged him as "leader, recruiter, commander and planner of the mutiny."

These maneuvers, this filing and re-filing of charges, are no exception at all. After all, this is the same government that has violently dispersed unarmed protesters under the "calibrated preemptive response" policy, exposed a taped conversation between President Arroyo and Virgilio Garcillano and then denied that tape 48 hours later, arrested a leftist congressman on trumped-up charges, barred government officials from testifying when the Senate investigated corruption in high offices, and looked the other way as hundreds of leftist activists were killed or disappeared.

By manipulating the various arms of government to harass its enemies and protect its own, the Arroyo government has weakened the rule of law. It has conditioned the people to look to end-results—stop corruption, improve education, expand health care, make housing more accessible—and be indifferent to the means, constitutional or not. It has lowered the bar, so to speak, that the law has placed to guard against extra-constitutional power grabs.

In one sense, the Honasan-Trillanes twist might even be truly liberating. We thus dispense with the often empty debate about constitutional forms and shift to substantive debate about what kind of world we wish to bequeath to our children. We cease to talk like technically minded lawyers and begin to act like the dreamers, poets and activists we all are in our finest moments.

If the mantra of Edsa 2 lay in the people's impatience with "legal gobbledygook," then the sure triumph of Gringo and the possible upset by Trillanes may simply be karmic revenge come home to roost.

(My congratulations as well to Congresswoman Ma. Lourdes Acosta of Bukidnon. I read somewhere about Garci singing paeans to the power of the sovereign. Ah, to see the devil quoting Scripture, and hear Buddha laughing.)

Uncertainties and certainties

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

FIVE DAYS AFTER THE ELECTION, UNCERTAINTIES overshadow the certainties of the outcome. As of yesterday, a few predictable events have taken place:

On Wednesday, Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos declared the election a "vindication" of the commission. He said: "there have been no reported incidents of cheating, except for minor isolated incidents. This election has disproved the fears and allegations ... that there would be massive cheating."

The Philippine National Police chief, Oscar Calderon, described the poll as "relatively peaceful," with a toll of 126 killed, down from 189 in 2004. The presidential spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye, in a variation of the same theme, said: "It is a credit to the Filipino people that ... the elections compared to previous ones, were generally peaceful and that we had a good turnout."

These comforting statements flew in the face of reports on the ground. Also on Wednesday, observers from the Asian Network for Free Elections, reported from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao incidents of intimidation, blatant vote-buying, poll watchers dictating names to voters as they filled our their ballot. One observer from Thailand reported the situation was "so uncomfortable especially if you have the military everywhere and also weapons everywhere." The observer witnessed confrontations between rival candidates, amid two bomb blasts. The observer said she felt safer in Afghanistan than in Mindanao. Another volunteer observer from the United Methodist Church in Chicago said she had seen ballot papers being handed to voters with money (P20) and people "who had voted several times and more than one ink mark on their fingers."

The 2007 election had a voter turnout of 70 percent, down from the 77 percent turnout in the 2004 presidential election, one of the lowest turnouts in the post-Marcos dictatorship years, during which participation has averaged 85 percent. The drastic drop came at the level of local races, which historically have registered higher turnout rates than presidential elections because of the more intense rivalry in local polls. The low turnout reflected voters' apathy that signaled a worrisome disenchantment with the electoral system.

Against these developments, which painted the downside of the election, President Macapagal-Arroyo told the Asian Wall Street Journal that her coalition allies spearheaded by the Lakas-CMD party had won "an even bigger majority in the House and an almost complete sweep of the local executives."

A totally different picture emerged from Namfrel's unofficial and partial quick count of the senatorial election, which reflected more faithfully the national mood of the vote and the deep division of the national electorate into the urban metropolitan and rural constituencies, depicting the geopolitical map of the country.

After five days of tabulation, the depth and the scale of the groundswell of the electoral revolt against the administration have emerged from the senatorial count. As of last Wednesday, the Genuine Opposition had fastened its hold on the Senate poll, taking eight of the 12 Senate seats, with two for the administration's Team Unity and two for independents, who are nominally anti-administration. The latest unofficial count put the opposition further ahead than the exit poll of Pulse Asia, which gave six seats to GO, four to TU and two to independents.

With this election being the most closely-watched by Filipinos and international observers since the 1986 snap election that ended 14 years of the Marcos dictatorship, national attention has now shifted to whether the vaunted, well-financed administration's political machine could deliver the so-called command votes to wipe out TU's deficit in the senatorial poll that would enable it to take control of both houses of Congress. The counting of the vote has now become the crucial and decisive phase. It is the most dangerous stage where the outcome could be decided, either by wholesale manipulation of the election returns or the expected flood in the last few weeks of the machine-produced "command votes." Comelec Chair Abalos said he hoped the National Board of Canvassers would complete the tabulation of the certificates of canvass from the provinces and Metro Manila "within 10 days" and proclaim the winners. A lot of things could happen in the tabulation that would change the outcome.

From the early returns, the expected sweep by the administration's machine has not been taking place in the Visayan provinces, in regions where President Arroyo polled heavily in 2004 to wipe off her deficits in Metro Manila and Luzon. Early returns reported by Church-based quick count centers in Cebu, Iloilo, Capiz, Antique, Leyte and Eastern Samar put the opposition senatorial candidates in more than half of the Senate seats.

The returns from Mindanao tell a different story in a region where the machine was showing its muscle, with an early 12-0 result for TU in Maguindanao province. Mindanao is being watched closely as it was the region, where, according to the Virgilio Garcillano tapes, tampering of the results allegedly took place to enable the President to win the election in Mindanao.

Garcillano, who ran for Congress in the first district of Bukidnon as an independent, has conceded defeat. Roilo Golez has won a landslide in Parañaque for the opposition. These are among the tell-tale signs of rejection of the regime, casting doubt on the claim of an even bigger majority in the House and a sweep of local offices. More surprises cannot be ruled out.

Cheers to the three women!

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AMID THE FOG OF THE POST-ELECTION SCEnario—good news and bad news, the infuriating along with the amusing—comes a piece of news that brings nothing but sunshine and good will.

No, Ruffa isn't reconciling with Yilmaz, and as far as I know Kris and James are still working out the kinks in their relationship. What I'm talking about is the signal achievement of three young Filipinas who last Wednesday summitted Mt. Everest, the world's highest peak, and set a record as the first women from Southeast Asia to do so. And if they successfully make their way back to base camp using the southern route after ascending through the northern route, then they will also be the first women ever to traverse Everest.

Congratulations, then, to Carina Dayondon, Noelle Wenceslao and Janet Belarmino, the three women who braved not just the cold weather and arduous physical challenges, but also the lack of funds and internal squabbling within their group, to make a climb and the dream of a lifetime come true.

When I interviewed them earlier this year, Carina said that it wasn't just physical strength or endurance that makes a difference in mountain climbing, especially when scaling the world's tallest peaks. "It's also spirit, focus and determination," she said. After all, above a certain height, physical fitness no longer makes much of a difference, what with altitude sickness, the lack of oxygen and the resulting disorientation taking their toll on even the strongest and most nimble of climbers. What matters then are one's inner reserves, strength of will, resoluteness. "I think women are better equipped in this regard," she added, her young face breaking into a smile.

And with their signal achievement, the three have proven indeed that they had more than enough of these inner resources.

* * *

OF course, this being a story involving Filipinos, the three women's achievement is nonetheless shadowed by intrigue.

After a falling out between the leaders of the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition (FPMEE), the women joined forces with expedition leader Art Valdez, along with Leo Oracion and Pastour Emata and other climbers. But there are reports that Valdez's co-leader, lawyer Butch Sebastian, and the rest of the board of the FPMEE, have threatened to file charges of "breach of contract" against the three women when they return home.

Now this would be truly sad, as it would not only cast a pall over the climbers' otherwise victorious homecoming, it would also leave a sour taste in the mouth, highlighting once more the Filipinos' inability to sustain any sort of long-term team effort to achieve a common goal.

I'm not taking sides in the internal dispute in the FPMEE, as I don't know the details and even the personalities involved. But I do remember the plea of Carina and Noelle who said they hoped to raise enough money to finance the Everest climb because they felt Filipinos "needed something to be proud of, and to know that with teamwork, we can achieve anything." This message I believe will be entirely negated if the women come home and are greeted not with bands and leis but with a subpoena.

* * *

I FEEL like saying "I told you so," except that the news seems to have caught exactly nobody by surprise.

Skepticism and cynicism seem to be the dominant reactions to news that pro-administration "Team Unity" candidates swept 12-0 the senatorial vote in Maguindanao, with Chavit Singson, otherwise trailing dismally in all other national counts, emerging as the top winner.

While administration strategists claim the results of the vote in Maguindanao only prove the power of its party machinery, the opposition sees it as the opening salvo in an alleged administration plot to thwart the runaway GO train to victory.

Maguindanao has always been among the "problematic" areas in the country, which historically have been among the last to report election results, with puzzling outcomes that usually defy the national pattern. Among candidates and election operators, these provinces are viewed as "last-minute" sources of vote surges—for the right price—that could, especially with candidates in precarious spots such as the last few Senate slots, bring them within the winners' circle.

So should we be surprised that, contrary to the emerging trend of both Namfrel and Comelec counts, Team Unity should suddenly score overwhelmingly in Maguindanao? Or that a losing candidate like Singson would emerge as No. 1 when in all other provinces he is scoring dismally?

The leading opposition candidates from first to eighth place have nothing to worry about. But the tallies in Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte and Basilan, where special elections have been scheduled, may be enough to distort the results for those in the bottom rungs. Everybody may "know" what is happening, but what is "everybody" doing about it?

* * *

IN MY tribute to public school teachers as election managers and monitors, the news about the burning of a schoolhouse in Taysan, Batangas hadn't yet sunk in. But of course the burning merited special mention, since a teacher and a volunteer poll watcher were trapped in the fire and died.

The story only reinforces the extraordinary and undeserved risks to which teachers and other volunteers are exposed in the course of their work in the elections. I'm glad local authorities have identified two local policemen as among the five arsonists, which somehow shows their resolve to go after the arsonists and terrorists.

But I think the real long-term solution to the risks the teachers face is the computerization of the voting and the counting, which should stop those who would be tempted to use force to thwart the will of the people.

Commercial break

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ELECTIONS PROVIDE SO MUCH ENTERTAINment I will definitely suffer withdrawal symptoms from the absence of those hilarious campaign ads on TV. I know these ads were supposed to sell candidates for public office, but they only succeeded in making me laugh. I still see some cardboard *pechay* with Pichay's face planted into the ground and watered. I wonder, if you wrote pechay instead of Pichay, would that be counted in his favor? The excuse being that some ethnic groups not only confuse their p's and f's but also their a's and e's.

When I do research in old newspapers and magazines I always spend time scanning the commercials if only to emphasize how TV, radio and tarpaulin have changed the face of advertising. This morning while I was eating raisins out of a zip-lock bag I remembered that Fernando Amorsolo drew the famous Sun Maid for Philippine distribution. I can't recall if this generic maiden was transformed into a Filipina. Many icons are known to us like Ronald, Wendy, Goldilocks and the jolly bee; how come Max's chicken or Tiki-tiki does not have a recognizable human face like the Colonel from Kentucky or the smiling Quaker on oatmeal tin cans? Today we have celebrity endorsers who are temporary, not enduring, icons.

Going through issues of La Ilustracion del Oriente from 1877 I was drawn to ads for the Botica de D. P. Sartorius. There was an engraving of a man in a coat looking at himself in the mirror, and this was meant to sell "El tinte Celebre del professor Barry" and "El tinte seguro de Barry." These were hair colors; the latter came in a bottle that was easier to apply than the former that came in a box that did not require sunlight for best effect. Both were entirely inoffensive [to the smell?] and converted gray or graying hair into a brilliant black. Another ad for the same botica had a woman looking in a mirror to see if the Crema de Perlas de Barry made her complexion white. This pearl cream was supposed to transform women of 40 or 45 years of age instantly into twentysomethings. Of course, there was also hair tint for women. Then there was toothpaste, "La marfilina de Barry," that didn't contain acids, had an agreeable taste and could turn teeth brilliant white, like alabaster or ivory. Based on these ads, it seems people have not changed; everyone wants to look better, have dark hair, white skin and shiny white teeth.

Imported shoes from Vienna including an assortment of botitos for men were available from M. Secker y compania on Escolta 35. This establishment was also a hat factory. Botica San Gabriel sold a tonic with sarsaparilla essence that was supposed to improve, purify and regenerate the blood and improve appetite. If you were able to go outside Manila you could get meat of aquatic birds from Pateros. We all know the place got its name from ducks or *patos*. (It is still the place for *balut*. Since the poor things are eaten straight out of the egg little wonder the only ducks we see today are of the "Peking duck" variety or that on hard cheese "Marca Pato," whose trademark is different from "Marca Piña." Although ducks can be had along the Pasig River from Santa Ana to Taguig, there aren't as many choices as in Pateros.) You went to Malate, San Pedro Makati or San Nicolas for turkey but there was better choice in Pandacan. Peanuts were had from Parañaque, embroidery from Tondo; tailors from Sampaloc; *cajistas* from Mandaluyong; *lavanderas* and earthenware jars and *palayok* from San Pedro Makati; *tapaderas*, sculptors and silversmiths from Sta Cruz; and last but not least, *costureras* from Paco. Things were specialized and zoned in the past compared to one-stop shopping in a department store or mall today.

While lists of old and stale things can be absolutely boring to a layman, these are engaging to a historian who can recreate the past from a long catalogue of goods available from the Bazar Oriental on Letran street in Intramuros: pianos on sale for P400, P300 or P280; harnesses of English leather, solid and sold cheaper ready-made than ordered from a factory. These came adorned with white metal for two horses costing P120 to P130, the same model also available in metal dorado. All the accessories for a carriage rival car accessories today: *cubiertas de charol, tirantes, cejaderas de cuero cejaderas de acero pulido, cabezadas para caballos de montar, aciones or corras para estribo, baticolas, cinchas, cintas de colores para riendas, sillas de montar completas para caballeros* and the same for *senoras*.

Trunks and *maletas* made of English leather were available, complete with secret locks, etc. All the travel needs were available from *maletitas, sacos*, to *carteras para viaje*. Crystal sets of many colors and pieces for the toilet or the table, wallets of Russian leather, paper, stationery, even spittoons, *palanganas*, and *orinales* made exclusively for children who were not yet toilet-trained. Musical instruments for bands or orchestras, even Armoniums for church use, were available. Church articles like crucifixes, incense burners, candelabra made this the one-stop shop of 1877. You name it, they had it, although I doubt very much if they were as complete as Cosco in the United States where you can buy coffins off the rack complete with memorial plans. Now that is truly complete, from infant needs to coffins. When do we get to that stage?

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Zen

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

AMONG ASIAN COUNTRIES, THE PHILIPPINES HAS BEEN the least influenced by Buddhism. Even neighboring Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim country, has several grand ancient Buddhist temples, notably Borobodur. In the Philippines, some of our archaeological sites have yielded Buddha images, but Buddhism itself never did gain too many adherents. Today, it is mainly associated with older Chinese-Filipinos, who worship at a few dozen temples scattered throughout the archipelago.

At one time it seemed Buddhism would eventually fade away in the Philippines given that most younger Chinese-Filipinos were being raised Catholic or Protestant but in recent years, Buddhism has gone through a revival, generating interest among younger Chinese-Filipinos as well as non-ethnic Chinese. Following a worldwide trend, varied Buddhist groups have established themselves in the Philippines, ranging from the Japanese Soka Gakai to Tibetan Vajrayana.

The fastest-growing groups are however still linked to Chinese Buddhism, notably two groups that are described as "humanistic Buddhism." These are Tzu Chi and Fo Guang Shan, both Taiwan-based sects and emphasizing charitable work, including education, health and disaster relief.

Meditation

I've written in the past about Fo Guang Shan and will try to do another column in the future about both these groups. Today I wanted to feature a less visible aspect of Buddhism in the Philippines: the Zen movement.

To understand Zen, we have to go back to the roots of Buddhism in India, where meditation played a central role. One type of meditation was called dhyana in Sanskrit or jhana in Pali. When Buddhism reached China, one sect that emerged called itself "zenna" to highlight the practice of meditation. Exported to Japan, "zenna" eventually became abbreviated to Zen while in China, "zen's" pronunciation changed eventually to Chan. Zen is also known as Seon in Korean and Thien in Vietnam.

Japanese Zen and Chinese Chan Buddhism have diversified into different schools but all still emphasize meditation together with a simple, but not necessarily ascetic, lifestyle. Training is handled by "dharma masters" who themselves go through years of rigorous study and, like the Catholic system of bishops, are able to trace their "lineages" back to original Zen and Chan founders.

In 1976, one branch of Japanese Zen, Sanbo Kyodan, made it to the Philippines through a Catholic sister who conducted meditation classes in St. Bridget's School in Quezon City. Sister Elaine trained many people, some of whom became dharma masters themselves. Their network, called the Zen Center for Oriental Spirituality of the Philippines has groups in Davao, Iloilo, Baguio and Tagaytay, with a "motherhouse" (pardon my Catholic nun terminology) in Marikina.

To join this group, you have to attend eight orientation seminars on successive Sundays, where you are taught to meditate. Their meditation revolves around koans or Zen stories, a famous example being the question: "What is the sound of one hand clapping?" The koans are not riddles; they are meant to focus one's attention.

This group might be described as being more of "Christian Zen," given their close ties with the Catholic religious. One of them, former Jesuit Ruben Habito, now based in the States, has even written a book "Living Zen, Loving God." But the Zen Center emphasizes they are not a religion, and they do not require that people "convert" to Catholicism or Buddhism.

They are a mixed group, with many professionals. I have several friends who are part of this group, including Zos Lee, dean of the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy at UP Diliman; architect Ning Encarnacion-Tan; psychiatrist Henny Espanola in Iloilo. Their ranks include quite a number of psychiatrists in the Philippine group, and this is because one of the early members of the group was the late Dr. Antonio Perlas, who was responsible for bringing Zen to different parts of the country.

Chan

Although I have so many friends in the Zen Center, I haven't been able to even start with their orientation seminars because Marikina is out of the way. I've been meditating on my own for many years but agree with Zen adherents that the "sitting" is better done as part of a community.

Fortunately, I've been able to find a more accessible base and this is the Ocean Sky Chan Monastery in San Juan. Holding my breath, I signed up this year for their introductory course, conducted in Chinese and spread out over 12 Friday evenings. Don't ask me how I managed to complete the course with two kids, university teaching, writing INQUIRER columns and handling a few dozen other odds and ends, but I'm convinced Zen does help you sort out the chaos of modern life, each meditation session a chance to empty the clutter in our minds so we can think more clearly.

The monastery was established only a few years ago and is managed by Abbess Jian Yong and two Buddhist nuns. They conduct meditation classes in Chinese (Mandarin or Putonghua) during weekdays and English on weekends. Each class meets once a week for two hours, with about 45 minutes of sitting and walking meditation, followed by about an hour of a lecture on Chan Buddhism.

There are three levels for the meditation classes, as well as special classes on Buddhist sutras or scriptures, which can be quite heavy. One sutra class I attended involved more than an hour's discussion of just one phrase.

Ocean Sky also holds prayer services on special Buddhist holidays. This Sunday there will be one to celebrate Vesak or Buddha Day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., including a vegetarian lunch. The Vesak celebrations are open to the public, Buddhist or non-Buddhist.

The meditation classes are for adults but they also have summer camps that do introduce meditation to children. The minimum age here is 6.

Commitment

Zen or Chan Buddhism does not have a monopoly on meditation training. There are several places now that offer meditation classes, often to promote better health.

But there's more to Zen and Chan than the health aspect. Zen is a way of life, too, that requires commitment and discipline. Both the Zen Center and Ocean Sky are quite strict with attendance, for example.

One time, while meditating at home I found myself distracted by a squadron of mosquitoes. The temptation was to exterminate them with an insecticide but I remembered how our dharma teacher had used mosquitoes to explain non-violence as an important aspect of Buddhism: "Rather than killing the mosquitoes, find ways to avoid them, or to have them avoid you."

That wasn't intended as a mosquito koan. If you're wondering, I turned on an electric fan.

Ocean Sky will be starting a new round of classes next week while the Zen Center will hold orientation workshops in June so I'm giving you their contact information:

Ocean Sky, 716 Jose Abad Santos, San Juan, Metro Manila. 726-0600 and 723-6132.

Zen Center, 85 St. Catherine/St. Claire, Provident Village, Marikina. 997-8867.

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LINE UP OF SPECIAL EVENTS

MAY 18
10:00 am - 12:00 nn Opening Ceremonies with Mascot & Costume Parade
1:00 pm - 1:30 pm Star Shoot-Out Game / Cheezee Stop Dance Contest hosted by Magnolia
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm QTV's Ka-Toque cooking Demo
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Fashion Show by Abbylyn
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm QTV's Ka-Toque cooking Demo
5:00 pm - 5:30 pm Star Shoot-Out Game / Cheezee Stop Dance Contest hosted by Magnolia
5:30 pm - 6:00 pm Junior Inquirer Essay Writing Contest/ Quiz Bee
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm QTV's Ka-Toque cooking Demo

MAY 19
12:00 nn - 12:30 pm Star Shoot-Out Game / Cheezee Stop Dance Contest hosted by Magnolia
12:30 pm - 1:00 pm Kino Kids Art
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Arts and Crafts Workshop
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Junior Inquirer Essay Writing Contest/ Quiz Bee
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm Star Shoot-Out Game / Cheezee Stop Dance Contest hosted by Magnolia
3:30 pm - 4:00 pm Kino Kids Art
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Swimming for Beginners by WS Sports
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Do-it-Yourself Segment by Sweet Life hosted by Wilma Doesnt and Lucy Torres

MAY 20
10:00 am - 11:00 am E-Aji Dance Craze / Dress-Up Your Pancake Contest by Magnolia Pancake Plus
11:00 am - 11:30 am Star Shoot-Out Game / Cheezee Stop Dance Contest hosted by Magnolia
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Alaska Power Camp
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Magnolia's My Moms Best Pambaon Recipe
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Moms Segment by Marilyn Reynes, Sherilyn Reyes and Lani Mercado
6:30 pm - 7:00 pm Star Shoot-Out Game / Cheezee Stop Dance Contest hosted by Magnolia

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Delisting a form of fraud?

THE MATTER BEGAN BUGGING ME TWO weeks before election day, but I was not too sure if my fears would be properly appreciated by the local media here in Ormoc City. I talked to one journalist about it, but he didn't seem interested. So I assumed the "discovery" might not be that significant.

But then, 24 hours after the elections, I read in the INQUIRER that the removal of the names of some voters from the voters' list (resulting in their disenfranchisement) may be one of the ways by which a politician can cheat on election day. Here in Ormoc, the number of voters dropped from 95,063 in 2004 to 88,321 this election year—or a difference of 6,742.

In 2004, the list was a DOS-based digital file; this election year, it was in PDF format. Thanks to modern technology, I was able to convert both files into an MS Access file. With this format, we can find, in a matter of seconds, the precinct to which a voter has been assigned and how many voters there are in each precinct—something very useful in assisting voters who cannot find the precincts where they are supposed to vote.

Now back to the issue of Ormoc's more than 6,000 "missing" voters. I fiddled around with figures in seven sample barangays, choosing seven large and medium-sized voting centers as my case studies. The rate of "missing voters" ranged from 32 percent to 18 percent or an average of 24 percent rated against the list of new voters. One large urban barangay, which has a voters' population of 4,002, had 962 persons missing.

PHILIPPINE DAILY LETTERS INQUIRER

When we confronted the local Comelec officials about it, they simply told us that this is a "normal" occurrence since they usually delist persons on legal grounds. (A Comelec encoder said they delisted more than 10,000 names, but the local Comelec registrar said the figure was 15,000.) For instance, those who do not vote in two successive elections would be prime candidates for delisting. The talk with the Comelec, however, came the night after the elections, so it was useless. By then, several hundreds were not able to vote because they could not find themselves in the list.

I remember one barangay official telling me that the Comelec had enlisted the help of barangay officials to validate the list. What if the officials concerned were highly "politically motivated" and removed their political enemies? That could have easily caused the disappearance of a few thousand voters, with the Comelec perfectly guiltless and innocent about it. Or what if some moneyed politico made arrangements with Comelec encoders to delete certain names?

These days, the old "*dagdag bawas*" technology might no longer work because of the presence of more vigilant watchdogs, like the PPCRV. But a simple delisting could easily do the trick. Could that have happened here in Ormoc and other places in the country? Just thinking aloud.

—EMIL JUSTIMBASTE,
PPCRV volunteer,
ebj2006@google.com

Poverty: Eradication, not alleviation, is the goal

KUDOS TO SOLITA COLLAS-MONSOD FOR her column on "Statistics show RP less poor." (INQUIRER, 4/21/07) The way she separated perception from facts was like a cool breeze after a whiff of body odor. Her take on the poverty situation was no different from a good confession—clear, concise and complete.

I will forward a copy of her article to public school teachers in the regions. May these friends of mine, who cannot afford to buy a copy of the INQUIRER, explain Monsod's column to a wider audience. Economic literacy is a must.

Measuring poverty is as elusive as the quest for the Holy Grail. Independent experts like Dr. Arsenio Balisacan have done their fair share of pushing this frontier of knowledge. The National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) helped a lot by coming out with data at par with international standards.

I grappled with the issue of measuring poverty when I visited a friend in Liège, Belgium. She asked me about poverty in the Philippines. After I rattled off the latest statistics, she said that their poverty incidence was "3." I asked if she meant 3 percent. She said, "No, they have only three poor families." And her country(wo)men knew who these families were, and were working on ways to help.

This may be an extreme comparison to make since Belgium's economy took thousands of years to develop. Our civilization is just a few hundred years young. May we someday not just alleviate poverty but also eradicate it.

—JOSE LEO LEMUEL G. CAPARAS JR.,
11 Luis Sianghio St.,
1103 Kamuning, Quezon City

Former DPWH exec was not dismissed

THIS REFERS TO THE STORY TItled, "Dismissed DPWH exec is GMA bet in Bulacan." (INQUIRER, 5/10/07)

Just to set the record straight: Although he was set to retire on March 22, 2007 at age 65, Salvador A. Pleyto resigned from his position as public works undersecretary on Dec. 22, 2006. His resignation was accepted by the Office of the President on Jan. 10, 2007: He was not dismissed from government service. In fact, he was issued a clearance by the DPWH from money, property and other accountabilities.

—ELIZABETH P. PILORIN,
OIC-chief,
Public Information Division,
Department of Public Works
and Highways, Manila

No GSIS funds were used in the polls

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE READing public, allow us to respond to the letter titled, "GSIS merely cruel to elderly or using pensions for polls?" of Ma. Nora R. Regaya. (INQUIRER, 4/30/07)

GSIS pensioners now enjoy the benefits of eCard Plus. With this electronic system, pensioners no longer need to queue in banks for the purpose of opening an account; and then, monthly, to fill up a deposit slip, deposit the crossed check, and finally fill up a withdrawal slip after the three-day check clearing process. With the eCard system, GSIS pensioners can now simply withdraw their pension from any of the 6,000 Megalink, Bancnet, or Expressnet ATMs around the country.

Pensioners are also able to comply with the annual physical reporting requirement of the GSIS, by using their eCard Plus in GSIS kiosks nearest them. Thus, they are spared the inconvenience of having to travel far to go to GSIS offices to validate their status.

If, however, pensioners are indisposed or if, for other valid reasons, cannot come to us to enroll for the eCard, we bring our mobile eCard enrollment device to them via our home visit program. The GSIS then manually validates their cards to ensure that they continue to receive their pensions. This is proof of the system's flexible procedures for pensioners. The GSIS eCard program, hence, is deemed faster, more efficient and reliable than the previous check system.

In pension management, a check system entails greater manpower and other administrative expenses. It is more cumbersome and costly. In many instances, pension checks, besides being prone to fraud, were also delayed in mails, undelivered or lost because of pilferage.

In the case of Trinidad Regaya, mother of the letter-sender, our records show that after obtaining her eCard, her accrued pension was credited to her account last March 31, while payment of her April pension has also been confirmed on April 30.

Second, the allegation that GSIS funds are used for elections is a rehash of an old rumor that detractors of the GSIS have been peddling. But we should take it for what it really is—a rumor. They have in fact failed to substantiate their claim despite our constant challenge to prove it.

Regaya and the rest of our pensioners should not worry about the state of the GSIS pension fund. It has never been as strong as it is today, after the GSIS started introducing policy and procedural reforms, which include the eCard System. The system, in fact, is being implemented precisely to protect the fund and lengthen its actuarial life, which to date is up to the year 2046.

—ELLA E. VALENCERINA,
vice president,
Public Affairs Office,
Government Service
Insurance System

A senior citizen's modest proposal

I HAVE BEEN READING WITH INterest Ramon Farolan's columns on the rights of senior citizens. I am one of them, and he has indeed helped us a lot.

Another problem that I would like to bring to his attention is the non-acceptance of credit cards by hospitals for the payment of fees for blood examination, X-ray, ultrasound, etc. They insist that a cash payment be made, otherwise the 20-percent discount will be reduced. For me, these services are even more urgent than the need to buy medicines. One goes to the hospital for a medical exam because it has become very necessary.

In this connection, I was wondering if Farolan has a facility, say an e-mail address, for accepting comments or suggestions from senior citizens, regarding problems they encounter and how these can be addressed in a collective and organized manner.

Whether or not he has th[illegible] ci[illegible]ity, I am volunteering my [illegible]ces to assist in this endeavor.

—ANGELO V. MANAHAN,
avmanahan1223@yahoo.com

GMA: Election results a victory for economy

From page A1

shows a vote for political stability and economic reform," Ms Arroyo told an investor conference organized by JP Morgan for 200 of the investment bank's clients.

In her first speaking engagement since Monday's midterm elections, she said the results of the balloting would enable her to focus on economic reform and carry out trade and investment strategies that would establish the Philippines as a major investment destination in Asia.

"I think we're the best value in Asia today," Ms Arroyo said.

While the opposition is expected to retain its majority in the 24-seat Senate, Ms Arroyo predicted a big victory for administration candidates in the House of Representatives. Her allies are also touted to win most of the 17,000 local posts at stake.

An even bigger majority in the 265-member House would scuttle any third impeachment bid against Ms Arroyo on allegations she rigged the 2004 presidential election. Control of the House would also secure her stay in office until 2010.

Under her leadership, Ms Arroyo said the economy "has reached a new level of maturity and stability with some of the strongest macroeconomic fundamentals in a decade."

DEEP PRAYER: A young girl stares at President Arroyo who remains focused on communing with her Maker at the Shrine of St. Therese of the Child Jesus at Villamor Air Base. LYN RILLON

Record OFW remittance

"Politics will not alter the course of our economic comeback. It won't undo our economic progress," she assured investors. "And let me be very clear, I will not sacrifice long-term gains for short-term political expediency."

After nearly a decade in the economic wilderness, the Philippines is back on foreign investors' radar largely due to record overseas remittances, which flow into the country regardless of political turbulence and drive consumption as well as property sales.

A booming outsourcing industry and potentially lucrative mineral resources has also attracted overseas interest and pushed the main stock index to near 10-year highs and the peso to six-year peaks.

Tapping into the euphoria, JP Morgan held its first investor conference since 2000 in the Philippines this week, attracting a jubilant Ms Arroyo and scores of fund managers.

Analysts expect the economy to grow 5.6 percent this year from 5.4 percent in 2006. For the Philippines to catch up with more dynamic neighbors, it needs to cut back on political bickering and kick start overdue capital expenditure.

'One of most powerful stories'

"I do worry that there is a risk of squandering the opportunity of today because the government is too slow implementing infrastructure projects," said Adrian Mowat, chief Asian and emerging equity strategist at JP Morgan.

"I believe this country could be one of the most powerful emerging market stories over the next decade as long as they wake up to the opportunity."

Foreign direct investments into the Philippines remain miniscule—$2.35 billion last year compared to $70 billion that went into China. Companies remain wary of buying mines and building new factories in the Philippines given the country's history of coup plots and instability.

"We want to come back to the Philippines," said JF Asset Management's Mayur Nallamala, who is in Manila for the conference. "We need stability from the political standpoint, we need tough economic decisions to be made."

In an interview with the Asian Wall Street Journal that was published on Thursday, Ms Arroyo said she wanted to use the remaining three years of her six-year term to upgrade infrastructure using the extra revenues from a higher sales tax as a come-on for foreign capital and also to bring down legal barriers to foreign investment.

That includes proposals to amend the Constitution to allow the entry of foreign capital in such diverse areas as mining and education. This initiative provoked widespread opposition previously, especially in the Senate.

"We have to bring the economic provisions in the Constitution into the 21st century and make them more in keeping with the globalized world," Ms Arroyo told the newspaper. This would "make it easier for foreign investors to invest in the Philippines."

Build personal relationships

To get those tough polices past a potentially obstructionist Senate, however, Ms Arroyo will need to woo erstwhile foes.

"She knows the right things to be done but she has not been able to develop the personal relationships necessary to get the support for them," said Peter Wallace, head of the Manila-based private think tank Wallace Business Forum.

"Now that the political uncertainties are out of the way, maybe she can focus on building those relationships."

According to some analysts, Ms Arroyo has a golden opportunity to break the policy logjams that crippled the last Congress.

"The Senate would be like a big negotiating table," said Ramon Casiple, executive director of the Institute for Political and Electoral Reforms.

"There will be a lot of agendas on the table, but President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would not be one of them. With some of the senators casting their eyes on the presidential elections in 2010, it would be a totally different Senate."

The last Congress passed only 109 laws, a record-low, as Arroyo's foes in the Senate sought to obstruct government policy and her enemies in the House tried unsuccessfully to impeach her over allegations of vote fraud. *With reports from Reuters, AFP and AP*

Ong's SC appointment recalled ...

From page A1

cials told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Faced with a huge embarrassment, a red-faced Malacañang has recalled Ong's appointment papers, one official said. It was only the other day that Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita announced that Ong, a Sandiganbayan justice, had been chosen to fill the vacancy in the 15-member tribunal.

Ong is reportedly a naturalized Filipino citizen, both his parents being of Chinese descent. The Constitution states that only natural-born Filipinos can be appointed to the Supreme Court and other lower collegiate courts.

The high court sent Associate Justice Renato Corona to Malacañang Wednesday night after Ermita announced to the media that President Macapagal-Arroyo had appointed Ong to the high court, a source said.

It will not only be Malacañang facing embarrassment but also Ong because he will have to resign from the Sandiganbayan, according to the two sources who declined to be named because they had no authority to speak on the record.

They also said all of Ong's decisions during his nine-year stint in the antigraft court, including his acquittal of officials charged with corruption, could be questioned.

The tribunal has returned Ong's appointment papers to Malacañang in compliance with Ermita's request.

"The effect of this is that his appointment has been suspended," a source said.

Burden of proof

Reached on the phone yesterday afternoon, Ong said he would submit today "proof that I'm a natural-born Filipino."

He said it would be in the form of a position paper where "everything is documented."

He declined to take any more questions, including why the issue of his citizenship was only being raised at this point in his career.

In a statement issued last night, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said: "We are seeking the assistance of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) in helping clear up this issue, and we expect the nominee to be given a fair opportunity to be able to fully present his side."

It was Ms Arroyo who picked Ong from a shortlist of eight candidates submitted by the eight-member JBC, which is tasked by the Constitution to submit nominees to the President. Ong was reportedly not even the top JBC nominee.

During his weekly press briefing on Wednesday, Ermita declined to confirm Ong's appointment, saying Malacañang was giving the courtesy to Chief Justice Reynato Puno to make the announcement.

But when pressed by reporters, Ermita phoned Puno, who was in Sydney, Australia, to get his permission to make the announcement.

Damage control

"The Supreme Court sent Justice Corona to PGMA (the President) to inform her of the problem," said the source, adding:

"Law groups are ready to file a case regarding the appointment in the high court which will embarrass PGMA. The Supreme Court justices said they will not attend the oath-taking because of the possibility of such a case being filed before them.

GREGORY ONG: A red-faced Malacañang blames the eight-man Judicial and Bar Council for his appointment. INQUIRER PHOTO

"I suspect the Supreme Court has the birth certificate of Ong. That's why they have taken such a keen interest in the appointment."

The source also said that upon Corona's representation, Ermita retrieved Ong's appointment papers from Associate Justice Leonardo Quisumbing the same night.

"Officially, the Supreme Court did not receive Ong's appointment papers," the source said.

He said this was meant to be "damage control" for the President.

The second source, an insider at the high court, confirmed the story.

In abeyance

Bunye initially begged off from making any comment when reporters asked him to confirm Malacañang's withdrawal of Ong's appointment. He said he needed to "check the circumstances."

"I think the nominee will be required to give proof of citizenship" he said.

Asked what the status of Ong's appointment was, he said: "It's held in abeyance" until the citizenship question is cleared.

"We believe that the recommendation was based on the recommendation of the JBC. The JBC owes it to itself to clarify the qualifications of the nominees that they submitted to the President."

The two sources blamed the JBC for the fiasco.

"The JBC includes the justice secretary (Raul Gonzalez) who should have prevented this very embarrassing situation for the President," a source said, adding, however, that Malacañang was not entirely blameless for the oversight.

"They have all the legal resources at their disposal to check the qualifications of their appointees. And under the Constitution, the President has 90 days to appoint [her choice] from the time of the submission by the JBC. I think the shortlist was submitted to her on May 8 or 9, so why was she in a hurry [to make the appointment]?" the source said.

Powerful backers

The source said it appeared that Ong had powerful backers in Malacañang—reportedly including Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, a close ally and political strategist of the President, and one of her own relatives.

According to the source, Ong did not get a single vote from the high court, which, he said, votes on the nominees among themselves and submits their list to the JBC.

The JBC, in turn, gives due consideration to the preliminary sentiments of the high court.

The JBC shortlist was topped by Sandiganbayan Justice Teresita de Castro, who reportedly got nine votes. Ong was one of those who got only five votes.

The tribunal insider said it was the fifth time Ong's name came up in the JBC deliberations, and wondered why it was only now that the latter's citizenship became an issue.

"It's also unfair to Justice Ong, so I think Malacañang will give him a chance to explain if he is a natural-born or naturalized citizen," the insider said.

If proven to be a naturalized citizen, Ong will have to step down from the Sandiganbayan. "He will have to be removed, but I think he will opt to resign," the insider said.

Sandigan decisions

The other source said the citizenship issue could put Ong's decisions in the antigraft court under question.

He said Ong had acquitted a Cabinet official of a graft case involving a huge contract with the Department of Interior and Local Government.

Said the source: "He is not a natural-born Filipino because his parents were Chinese. At the time he was born, his father was a Chinese citizen."

Article IV, Sec. 2 of the 1987 Constitution says that natural-born citizens are "those who are citizens of the Philippines from birth without having to perform any act to acquire or perfect their Philippine citizenship." It also says that "those who elect Philippine citizenship in accordance with paragraph 3, Sec. 1 hereof shall be deemed natural-born citizens."

Sec. 1, paragraph 3 says: "Those born before Jan. 17, 1973, of Filipino mothers who elect Philippine citizenship upon reaching the age of majority" are Filipino citizens.

The tribunal insider said Ong might qualify under this criteria if he elected to be a Filipino citizen when he reached majority age.

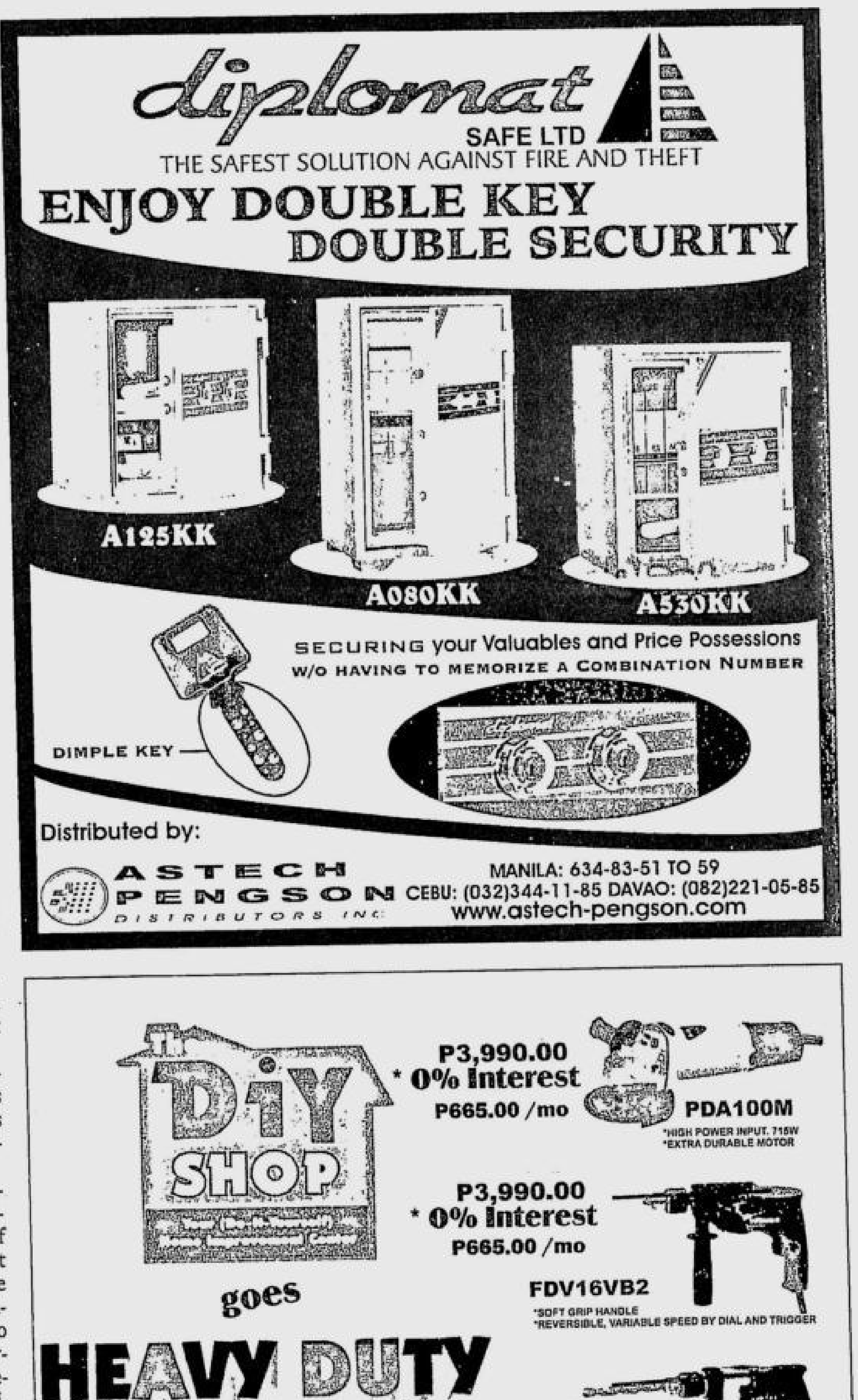
Ong was born on May 25, 1953, in San Juan. His personal data sheet, obtained from the Transparency and Accountability Network website, listed his citizenship as "natural-born."

His mother, Rita "Dy Guiok" Santos was from Amoy, China, and his father, Eugenio Onghangsen, from Tondo, Manila.

Inquiry

Justice Secretary Gonzalez said he had ordered an investigation into Ong's citizenship and designated chief legal counsel Ricardo Paras to head the probe.

Gonzalez said the JBC members did not look into Ong's citizenship when they chose the nominees because they believed that the issue was passed upon when the latter was appointed to the Sandiganbayan. *With a report from Volt Contreras*



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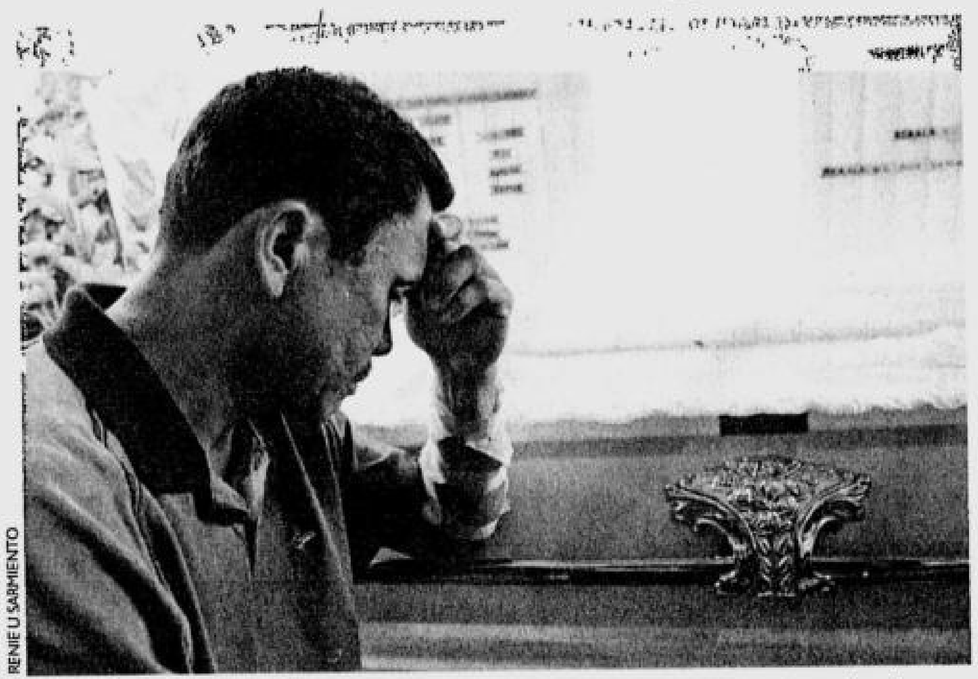
Cops linked to Batangas fire that killed 2

From page A1


RENIE U. SARMIENTO

BEREAVED husband of public school teacher Nellie Banaag, Galileo, in deep thought during her wake. Nellie while on poll duty was burned to death at the elementary school precinct in Taysan, Batangas, that gunmen set on fire after the counting of votes.

THIS BURNED BALLOT BOX was another casualty of the fire that killed two women in the public elementary school in Taysan. They had been counting votes when gunmen in bonnets set the school on fire.
REUTERS

named identified two of the policemen implicated as Insp. Robert Marinda, head of RSOG Batangas, and SPO2 William Relos.

Barias said the five policemen had "links" to incumbent Taysan Mayor Hernando Villena, who lost in the election. He said that three days before the incident, the five policemen were "identified to be involved in some activities with Villena." He did not elaborate.

"The five are now under restrictive custody at Camp Vicente Lim because they are suspects in the burning of the school in Taysan," Barias told reporters.

Armed men wearing bonnets attacked the seven-room Pinagbayan Elementary School at around 3 a.m. using gasoline and gunfire and burning it down including ballot boxes.

Slow count claims 4 more lives

As the slow manual vote count continued, four more election-related deaths were reported yesterday, bringing to 151 the INQUIRER's overall toll of lives since the election period began on Jan. 14.

The PNP has rolled back its election toll from 143 to 41, including 15 police officers, after it said a review on Wednesday showed many incidents were not politically motivated. A day before, the PNP said Monday's balloting was generally peaceful and the death count was lower than in previous elections.

In the latest police reports of violence:

- A gun battle erupted at the Holy Spirit Academy in Bangued, Abra, yesterday when a poll watcher identified as Totoy Buyao, 21, of Agsimao in Tinig, pulled out a gun during a heated argument and shot and wounded Brenda Crisologo, wife of mayoral candidate Edwin Crisologo. Army soldiers killed Buyao.
- Claims by Rep. Claude Bautista, a gubernatorial candidate, that his rivals had snatched election returns in Malita, Davao del Sur, led to a gun battle on Wednesday in which mayoral candidate Isidro Sarmiento and his son Danilo who ran in the provincial board race were killed, police said. Another person was wounded.
- In Polomolok, South Cotabato, also on Wednesday, an unidentified gunman shot and killed Rogelio Limos who was tending his variety store after winning reelection as councilor, police said.

Cartographic sketches

Barias said the identification of the five policemen implicated in the Taysan school burning was made by witnesses based on cartographic sketches. But a lot of the details in the case were still under investigation, he said.

"They have to explain why they were there. We want to know why they were there in the area immediately, and even before, the incident. They were not authorized to be there. This is not a normal time. This is election time. Our personnel have their own assignments."

Barias also said that just before the attack, police assigned to guard the school left to respond to another incident. It turned out the call was a diversionary tactic, he said.

Asked if any action will be taken against Region 4's Senior Supt. James Brilliantes and Region 4-A's director Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan for the involvement of their men, Barias said the investigation of the case and the arrests of the five were done by Radovan.

Earlier, the PNP leadership had said the New People's Army was involved in the burning of the school.

"That was our initial consideration because the place is heavily infiltrated by the NPA," Barias said. "But we are veering away from that now. We are not totally abandoning this angle just yet."

If the investigation proves that Mayor Villena was involved in the burning of the school, "he will also be included in the case."

'Let the ax fall'

The five policemen went through ballistics and paraffin tests yesterday and were due to be presented in a police lineup. If warranted, the five will face grave misconduct cases that could lead to their dismissal. They will also face criminal charges of arson and murder.

"Whoever is responsible here will suffer. This is something heinous. To do this to a teacher? I feel so very bad police are involved. If they are guilty, they should suffer the consequences. Let the ax fall where it may," Barias said.

He added that the PNP was "very serious in this investigation. You should dispel fears of a whitewash."

Villena lost the contest for the mayoral seat of Taysan against Victor Portugal, who was proclaimed winner on Wednesday.

With reports from Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon, Leoncio Balbin Jr., EV Espiritu and Vincente Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon, Eddie Aguirre, Orlando Dinoy and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao.

Pineda leads in Pampanga; Espinosas trail in Masbate

From page A1

COJUANGCO: Tight race in Tarlac

PINEDA: Up in Pampanga

PAYUMO: Close fight in Bataan

RECTO: Not looking good

PAGDANGANAN: Slow count

Meynardo Sabili (Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino) was leading with 35,496 votes, followed by Mark Leandro Mendoza (Nationalist People's Coalition) with 30,297.

On March 28, Recto gave up his gubernatorial ambition for Santos and chose instead to seek a congressional seat.

Kalinga

The race for governor in Kalinga was headed for an upset, with the wife of a slain candidate leading an incumbent representative of the province's lone congressional district, according to partial unofficial results from Namfrel and the PPCRV.

Floydelia Diasen, 54, a professor at Kalinga Agricultural State College, received 27,912 votes against Rep. Laurence Wacnang's 13,008. A third candidate, lawyer Warren Luyaben, had 738.

The results covered 257 precincts tallied from Tabuk and Tanudan towns.

Diasen is a replacement candidate of Lakas-CMD for her husband, Vice Gov. Rommel Diasen, who was gunned down in Barangay Magnao, Tabuk, on April 7.

"I think the people have been shocked by [my husband's murder]. However, there were many factors that contributed to my lead," Diasen told the INQUIRER. Aside from "sympathy votes," the result of the elections meant that residents wanted to reject the hold of a political clan in the province and denounce massive vote-buying, she said.

Wacnang said he was hopeful that he could catch up with Diasen.

"Everything is still anybody's race. The deciding factor will primarily depend on the turnout of votes in upstream towns," Wacnang said. He was referring to votes coming from the towns of Balbalan, Lubuagan, Pasil, Pinukpuk, Tanudan and Tinglayan.

Pampanga

Results from the official canvass of Pampanga's board of canvassers showed Board Member Lilia Pineda leading with 99,285 votes, Fr. Eddie Panlilio with 78,787, and reelectionist Gov. Mark Lapid with 77,227. *(See related story on Page A21.)*

The results covered canvassed returns from San Luis, Sta. Ana, Sto. Tomas, Bacolor, Sasmuan, Arayat, Mexico, Minalin, Masantol and Lubao towns.

Pineda edged Panlilio and Lapid in her hometown of Lubao, where she got 30,511 votes. Panlilio received 7,703 votes while Lapid got 6,982.

Isabela

Reelectionist Gov. Maria Gracia Cielo Padaca maintained her lead over former Gov. Benjamin Dy in the tally of Isabela's board of canvassers.

Padaca received 107,872 votes while Dy got 82,421. The votes came from 22 towns canvassed at 2 p.m. yesterday.

Cauayan City, the hometown of both Padaca and Dy, delivered the votes for the Dy family.

Dy received 29,454 votes in the city while Padaca got 6,831. The election returns, however, have yet to be tallied by the provincial board of canvassers.

Tarlac

Lawyers of former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. asked the Commission on Elections to defer canvassing of votes for the gubernatorial race in the towns of Concepcion and Bamban over allegations of massive fraud.

Results in the two towns revealed that Cojuangco got 18,127 votes in Concepcion and 6,870 in Bamban, while his rival, Vice Gov. Victor Yap, got 22,387 and 9,258, respectively.

Ruben Platon, Cojuangco's lawyer, said cases of intimidation and vote-buying had already been documented in the towns in the third district.

Panfilo Doctor Jr., acting provincial election supervisor, said the complaint would be heard today.

Cojuangco was leading in all towns in the first district, which he represented in the House of Representatives, as well as in the capital Tarlac City. Yap, however, was leading in three towns of the second district—Gerona, Victoria and San Jose.

The two candidates were battling it out in the third district where votes could decide the winner.

Jesi Lapus, younger brother of Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, won in the third congressional district race.

Nueva Ecija

The hope of Nueva Ecija Vice Gov. Mariano Cristino Joson to succeed his brother, outgoing Gov. Tomas Joson III, dimmed as the lead of his opponent, Rep. Aurelio Umali, widened.

In the unofficial count of Namfrel and the PPCRV, Joson got 221,228 votes as against Umali's 312,427.

Umali's lead of 91,199 votes appeared insurmountable as only the election returns from seven towns remained to be canvassed yesterday.

The results covered returns from Cabanatuan, Gapan, Muñoz, San Jose and Palayan cities and 22 towns.

In the vice gubernatorial race, Edward Thomas Joson III, nephew of Mariano Cristino Joson, led by 36,304 votes over Jose Taruc V, running mate of Umali. Joson got 248,128 votes while Taruc had 211,824.

Former Gov. Eduardo Nonato Joson is leading former Rep. Renato Diaz in the race for representative of the first district. Joson got 44,107 votes while Diaz received 43,098.

In Cabanatuan, a monitoring-tabulation of results by the city government showed Alvin Vergara of Lakas-CMD leading in the mayoral race by close to 11,000 votes over Tomas Joson III.

Former Vice Gov. Eduardo Joson IV was trailing in his bid for representative of the third district against Czarina Umali and two other candidates.

Ilocos Norte

The most interesting match-up in Ilocos Norte shifted to the congressional race in the first district as reelectionist Rep. Roque Ablan Jr. tried to maintain a slim lead over his closest rival, former Pagudpud Mayor Reynolan Sales.

The gubernatorial race is close to being concluded with Board Member Michael Keon, a nephew of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, maintaining a wide margin over former Gov. Rodolfo Fariñas, based on the latest count of the PPCRV and Namfrel in Laoag City.

The PPCRV and Namfrel count as of 11 a.m. yesterday showed Keon getting 129,078 votes as against Fariñas' 68,519. The tally was taken in 21 towns with final and complete results.

The complete and final tally is being awaited in Piddig town and Laoag.

Keon's cousin, outgoing Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who is running unopposed as representative in the second district, has already recorded 102,119 votes.

Ablan is still leading by more than 900 votes with 39,507 as against Sales' 38,548 votes. The result covered 10 towns with complete tallies while votes in the town of Piddig and Laoag were still being tallied.

In Laoag City, reelectionist Mayor Michael Fariñas was proclaimed on Wednesday night despite a disqualification case filed by his rival, Rowland Albano.

Bataan

Candidates who lost in Monday's elections in Bataan assailed the winners for engaging in alleged massive vote-buying and other irregularities.

In the first congressional district race, veteran politician Felicito Payumo, former chair of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, trailed Herminia Roman, wife of outgoing Rep. Antonino Roman Jr., by about 9,000 votes.

Payumo had claimed massive vote-buying in some towns.

Lawyer Marie Gonzales, daughter of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales and who ran but lost to reelectionist Bataan Rep. Albert Raymond Garcia in the second district, bewailed the alleged harassment and intimidation of her political leaders.

Supporters of losing gubernatorial candidate Leonardo Roman and losing reelectionist Balanga City Mayor Melanio Banzon vowed to support their leaders' planned mass actions in the coming days.

Roman lost to reelectionist Gov. Enrique Garcia by over 6,000 votes, while Banzon lost to Garcia's son, Jose Enrique Garcia, by around 7,000 votes.

Governor Garcia said he asked his lawyers to prepare statements to belie the accusations against him and his sons.

Palawan

The Board of Canvassers in Puerto Princesa City proclaimed on Thursday afternoon Edward S. Hagedorn as the duly elected mayor amid the cheers of almost 100 spectators at the session hall of the city council.

Hagedorn tallied a total of 41,363 votes against Eduardo Matillano, who had 17,677.

Also proclaimed was the mayor's running mate Lucilo R. Bayron and the 10 councilors.

Matillano earlier filed a pre-proclamation protest, saying massive cheating was allegedly committed by Hagedorn, but the case was junked by the board. *(See related story on Page A4.)*

Bulacan

The leading gubernatorial candidates, former Gov. Roberto Pagdanganan and Board Member Joselito Mendoza, brother of outgoing Gov. Josefina de la Cruz, were both claiming victory amid the slow canvassing of votes in Bulacan.

Both camps have traded accusations of engaging in fraud.

Pagdanganan claimed that Wednesday's fire in the accounting office of the provincial capitol was started by his rivals to destroy documents and files that might point to irregularities.

But De la Cruz said she and her brother were not behind the fire, noting that she would not gain anything from it.

"They are having a hard time to accept that my brother, who is a village chair, can defeat [Pagdanganan]," she said.

She said her brother posted a 10,000-vote lead over Pagdanganan in the count of the PPCRV and Namfrel on Wednesday.

De la Cruz said she asked Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos on Tuesday to intercede to hasten the "unusual pace" of the submission of election returns to provincial canvassers.

Pagdanganan claimed he was winning by a margin of 70,000-100,000 against Mendoza. Bulacan has at least 1.4 million voters.

With reports from Villamor Visaya Jr., Vincent Cabreza and Cristina Arzadon, Inquirer Northern Luzon; Jo Martinez-Clemente, Russell Arador, Anselmo Roque, Tonette Orejas, Carmela Reyes and Greg Refraccion, Inquirer Central Luzon; Marlon Alexander Luistro, Geraldford Ticke (contributor), Robert Bagalay and Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon

New batch of Peace Corps volunteers arriving tomorrow

By Cynthia D. Balana

DESPITE THE BRUTAL slaying of one of its volunteers, the United States Peace Corps is sending 64 new volunteers to the Philippines this Saturday, the US Embassy in Manila announced on Wednesday.

The new volunteers will be the 266th group of Peace Corps volunteers to serve in the Philippines. More than 8,000 Peace Corps volunteers have served in the country since October 1961.

The new group will work on development programs in education, coastal resources management, and children, youth and family.

US Peace Corps Director Ron Tschetter, who was in the Philippines last month to coordinate the search for missing Peace Corps volunteer Julia Campbell, had said that the Peace Corps would continue its programs in the Philippines which is host to the second oldest Peace Corps program in the world.

Campbell disappeared on April 8 while hiking in Banaue, Ifugao Province, where the world-famous Banaue Rice Terraces is located.

Search parties

Search parties discovered her body near Barangay Batad, Banaue town, two days later.

A resident from the same barangay had already admitted to the killing, saying he struck her, not knowing who she was after she accidentally bumped him from behind. The Department of Justice is handling the case.

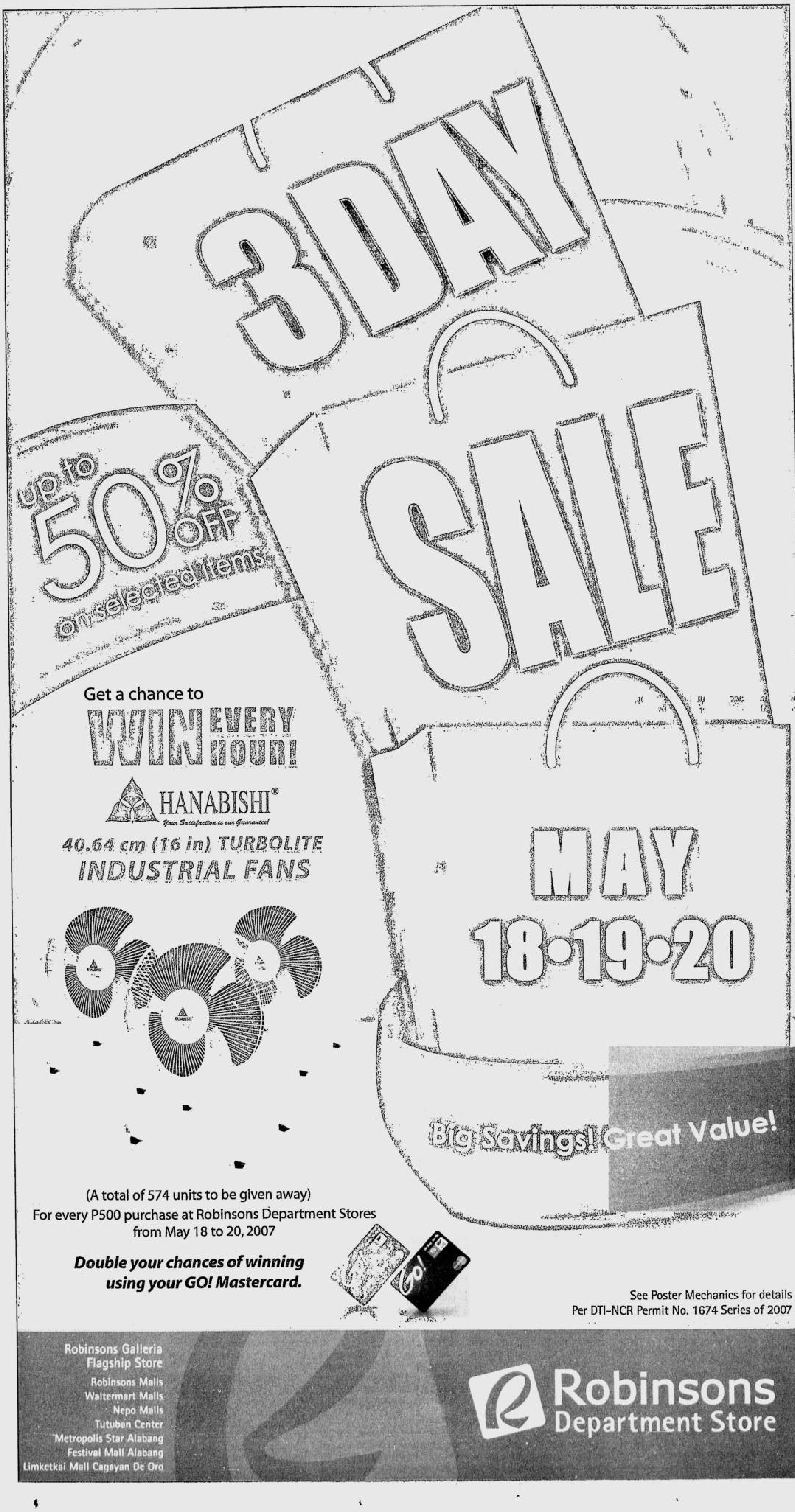
The new set of Peace Corps volunteers undertook three months of intensive language and technical training and will spend two years living and working in Philippine communities in Luzon and the Visayas.

English

They will also teach the English language and computer technology alongside Filipino teachers in Department of Education high schools and Commission on Higher Education universities and colleges, work with local government units to develop, implement and monitor coastal resource management plan, and teach literacy and life skills to marginalized children and youth, and improve organizational capacity in Department of Social Welfare and Development-accredited centers.

The US Embassy said the Peace Corps has enjoyed a close and fruitful partnership with the Philippines for almost 46 years.

"The Philippines has become a very popular place for Peace Corps service not only because of the beauty of the country but also because of the close relationships and partnerships formed, and the willingness of the Philippine people and organizations to work closely with Peace Corps Volunteers," the US Embassy said.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Vigil vs fraud in Eastern Samar

By Cyrain A. Cabueñas
Inquirer Visayas

BORONGAN, EASTERN VISAYAS—THE SPIRIT of Edsa is alive in Eastern Samar.

Alarmed by reports of alleged last-minute election irregularities, some 250 people trooped to the legislative building at the Capitol grounds here at about 7 p.m. Wednesday with lighted candles and rosary beads.

For the first time in the history of elections in this province, the people showed how they value their votes.

"This is unprecedented," said provincial election supervisor Juan Bautista Beato Jr.

"I have never seen a vigil for provincial canvass in my service as election supervisor. Usually, people would only witness the municipal canvass," he added.

The provincial Board of Canvassers convened at 6 a.m. Wednesday and adjourned at 9 p.m. When they left the session hall, some were surprised to see the crowd outside reciting the rosary surrounded by candlelight.

"I thought it was already All Souls' Day," a member was overheard saying in jest.

Beato said it was a positive development. He encouraged the people to produce a bigger number until the canvassing is done.

He said the presence of the people will prevent fraud and hopefully erase a cloud of doubt over election officials handling the canvassing of votes.

The group in vigil was equally represented—the youth, Church workers, the business sector and workers.

They came after text messages began to spread that there might be an attempt to rig the results in the race for the province's lone congressional seat allegedly in favor of Elda Libanan (Lakas-CMD), the wife of outgoing Rep. Marcelino Libanan.

The people were also alarmed over reports received by the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) that election returns in at least six towns have no Comelec seals.

Comelec Commissioner Resurreccion Borra, who was in charge of the printing of election forms, said in a phone interview that ERs were all supposed to contain Comelec seals since this was one of the security features of the document.

He said this was the first time that he heard of ERs without Comelec seals. He said he would have the matter investigated.

Beato said while it was not normal for ERs to have no Comelec seals, there was no basis yet to conclude that they were produced in an attempt to rig the elections.

He said the absence of Comelec seals in the ERs might just be a "defect in forms." The province's governor, Ben Evardone, is brother of suspended National Printing Office chief Philip Evardone. The NPO is the agency authorized to print election forms.

He said there would be no fraud as long as the will of the people prevails.

To resolve the issue and avoid stalling the counting, Comelec officials here have earlier asked watchers of opposing political parties, and the PPCRV, to write down the serial numbers of each of the ERs that have no Comelec logos.

But some concerned citizens still feared that the ERs that have no Comelec logos, already filled up with votes cast, would be switched with rigged ERs that have Comelec logos during the canvassing.

FR. EDDIE Panlilio reaches out to supporters who gathered for one of his rallies.

TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

Pampanga poll fraud tied to gambling, graft

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE vigil against fraud in the Pampanga race for governor continues to swell as the priest who defied odds to run without resources and machinery said the real players in the contest were suspected gambling lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda and Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid.

Fr. Eddie Panlilio, said the proxy war between the two real players required the use of millions of pesos of funds from unknown sources to buy votes and try to rig the results of the gubernatorial race.

Panlilio, seen as an alternative to two candidates linked to theft of public funds and decades of illegal gambling in the province, spoke of the proxy war at the first night of a vigil that his supporters mounted outside the Bren Z. Guiao Convention Center for "the voice of truth to prevail."

At the center, the provincial board of canvassers buckled down to its first day of work, working from 2 p.m. up to 10 p.m. to finish the tally of election results from four towns. Sixteen towns and two cities have yet to be canvassed amid reports that huge amounts of money have been going around to buy election officers who are capable of altering the results in favor of either candidates Lilia Pineda, wife of Bong, or Mark Lapid, son of the senator.

Days close to the May 14 election, on actual voting day and days after it, Panlilio said it became clearer to him that he was not really up against Lilia or Mark.

He said he felt from the start he was going to deal with the two political families.

King makers

How they would actually work to win the governor's seat was a field he has yet to fully comprehend early on in the race.

In reality, Bong Pineda and Senator Lapid, both recognized as political king makers in the province, did not take a back seat in this year's local elections.

"It is true Athcing (Sister) Lilia is kind. It is true she helps the sick and the poor. Some people regard her as a combination of the Mother of Perpetual Help and St. Jude. I am afraid, however, with all the events that have happened in the past days, that somebody has dictated on her to do acts that do not conform to Christian values," said Panlilio.

That "somebody" is Bong Pineda, 57, Lilia's husband for almost 40 years. Before Panlilio's candidacy and when nobody dared to fight the Lapids, Lilia stood up to lead the anticorruption crusade.

She wanted to leave that crusade as a "legacy" even as the shadow of her controversial husband hovers over her 19 years of holding various local positions.

How Governor Lapid, 28, shored up his winning chances amid his poor showing in local surveys was traced to the alleged "last-minute operation" arranged by his father, Panlilio said. He was referring to reports about "massive vote-buying" by the Lapid camp on the night of May 13.

Last-minute operation

INQUIRER sources said Bong Pineda had anticipated that move but was surprised that this was done on the eve of the elections, not days before May 14, in Mabalacat, Masantol, Macabebe, Minalin and other towns.

In the vigil, Panlilio noted the delays that attended the counting at the precinct level, the frequent power interruptions in towns known to be bailiwicks of Pineda and Lapid during the counting and canvassing at the town level, the snatching of 12 ballot boxes in Arayat town and the alleged *dagdag-bawas* (vote padding and shaving) in favor or against any one of the three major candidates.

On Thursday, the alleged election irregularities in Pampanga remained issues waiting to be explored and substantiated as rival camps focused on protecting their votes, if not bolstering, their chances to win.

What he was sure of, Panlilio said, was that as of Wednesday, he was down to a "precarious lead" of 8,000 to 10,000 votes from double those numbers on Tuesday.

What he was also certain of, he said, was that both Pineda and Lapid surely have the money and machinery.

Panlilio said he rejected a proposal from the Lapids on Wednesday night to join forces against the Pinedas in a campaign against electoral fraud.

"We could not coalesce even on that basis because they may be a party to it. From the start, the crusade I led was against corruption and we could not compromise on that. We should retain a moral high ground," he said.

Awakening

"This is truly an awakening experience. What concerns me now and those who are in the crusade for good governance is how we could assert the will of the people who stood up against corruption, bad governance and illegal gambling," said Panlilio.

But Lilia was hurt, not by the difficult fight, but by Panlilio's statements against her husband.

"My husband has been my lone ally and we have not done anything wrong. I love my husband very, very much and I hope my critics would not drag him in the electoral fraud issue," said Lilia in Kapampangan.

She said the Lapids did not fight fairly while the battle against Panlilio seemed like a class war to her.

Even so, Panlilio said the Pampanga contest was basically down to one question at this point: "Did we use good means to campaign and get votes?"

Comelec proclaims winners as count drags in some areas

BAGUIO CITY—THE COMMISSION on Elections proclaimed the winning local candidates in Ilocos Sur, Ifugao, Quirino, Zambales, Isabela, Batanes and Benguet on Wednesday and Thursday.

In Ilocos Sur, the Comelec on Wednesday night proclaimed Deogracias Victor Savellano as governor, Jeremias Singson as vice governor, Ronald Singson as representative of the first district and Eric Singson as representative of the second district.

Outgoing Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, in the final and official count of the Comelec, topped the senatorial race in the province with 208,395 votes.

Eva Marie Singson-Medina, Governor Singson's niece, ran unopposed as mayor of Vigan City while the governor's sister, Germelina Singson-Goulart lost in the mayoral race of Caoayan town.

Rep. Eric Singson's son, Candon City Mayor Allen Singson, was reelected, while Eric's brother, Alfonso, topped the city council race.

Eric's sister, Charito, won as vice mayor of Narvacan town while his brother-in-law, Mayor Edgardo Zaragoza, was reelected.

Eric's nephew and the Zaragozas' eldest son, Zuriel, was elected board member.

In Batanes, lawyer Annie Romero Cortez, Comelec provincial supervisor, proclaimed Carlo Oliver Diasnes as representative of the lone district of Batanes and Telesforo Castillejos as governor.

Baguilat governor

In Ifugao, the Comelec on Thursday proclaimed Teodoro Baguilat Jr. as governor, Nora Dinamling as vice governor and Solomon Chungalao as representative of the lone district of the province.

In Quirino, Dakila Carlo Cua was proclaimed governor, Paciencia Bacani as vice governor and Junie Cua as representative of the lone district of the province. Their proclamation was held Wednesday.

In Zambales, the Comelec proclaimed on Thursday Amor Deloso as governor, Anne Marie Gordon as vice governor, Maria Milagros Magsaysay as representative of the first district and Antonio Diaz as representative of the second district.

Gordon is the wife of James Gordon Jr., who was proclaimed as the reelected mayor of Olongapo City.

In Isabela, the Comelec proclaimed on Wednesday the following winners in the mayoral races: Florante Raspado (Jones), Edgar Guyud (San Guillermo), Mayor Edgar Go (San Mariano), Fernando Cumigad (Gamu), Roberto Agcaoili (San Mateo), Wilfredo Tabag (Ramon), Atanacio Dayrit Jr. (Cabatuan) and Leoncio Kiat (Echague).

Pangasinan

In Pangasinan, quoting results of the race in the third congressional district from copies of ERs for the Liberal Party, lawyer Gallant Soriano said he received 23,776 votes against Tulagan Jr.'s 21,054 votes, Rachel Arenas' 19,956, and Bayambang Mayor Leocadio de Vera's 4,821.

But Arenas said based on her copies of the ERs as a member of the Lakas-CMD, she won by 886 votes over Tulagan.

Arenas and her mother denied reports that they bribed election officials in the district to ensure Rachel's victory.

"Why do we have to bribe? They are the ones who are doing it, and they know who they are," the mother said.

"If they will not stop telling lies, I will be forced to tell who they are. That's my character. I'm not afraid of them. We have rosaries in our hands. Who can go against you when God and Mama Mary are embracing you?"

Soriano appealed to the Comelec and the public to remain vigilant and guard the results of the elections.

"I thank the voters for giving me the mandate to become their new congressman of the third district," Soriano said.

He said his camp has detected attempts by some of his opponents in the congressional elections to bribe election officers.

"I appeal to my opponents to respect the people's will. I also ask the Comelec to prevent any unscrupulous elements from any attempt to change the results of last Monday's elections," he said.

ELEKSYON 2007

Marcos country

In Ilocos Norte, the Comelec proclaimed eight mayors. They were Bonifacio Clemente (Paoay), Marlon Sales (Pagudpud), Generoso Aquino Jr. (Piddig), Aldrin Garvida (Nueva Era), Jose Foronda (Vintar), Salvacion Cimatu (Bangui), Jeffrey Nalupta (Batac) and Clemente Garcia (Burgos).

In Benguet, proclaimed mayors were Concepcion Balao (Atok), Marcelo Contada (Bakun), Mauricio Macay (Bokod), Felicio Bayacsan (Buguias), Roberto Canuto (Kapangan), Benito Siadto (Kibungan), Mario Godio (Itogon), Bony Tacio (Sablan) and Manalo Galuten (Mankayan).

Palawan

In Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, the Comelec also declared winner in the mayoral race reelectionist Mayor Edward Hagedorn.

Marinduque

In Marinduque, provincial election supervisor Fernando Besiño officially proclaimed the winners of the local elections in the province at 12:30 a.m. Thursday at the session hall of the provincial capitol.

Official Comelec results showed the following as winners: Rep. Carmencita Reyes (Lakas), 46,045; Gov. Jose Antonio Carrion (Independent), 25,276 votes.

Referendum in Cebu

In Cebu, candidate Luigi Quisumbing expressed confidence at being finally proclaimed representative of the 6th district of Cebu after he said in a statement that he won by almost 6,600 votes over incumbent Rep. Nerissa Soon-Ruiz.

The elections for seats in Cebu province and Congress appeared to have nothing to do with the Arroyo administration but was a referendum on who are for or against moves to divide Cebu into several provinces.

Results both in quick counts and Commission on Elections counts showed that candidates against the move to divide Cebu are winning.

All three Garcias who formed the One Cebu party—Governor Gwen (seeking reelection), her father Pablo (congressman for the 2nd district) and brother Pablo John (congressman for the 3rd district rep), were pulling away from their main opponents, who have either backed or authored Sugbuak bills.

Reelectionist representatives Eduardo Gullas in the first district and Red Durano in the 5th district, both of whom have opposed Sugbuak, are now virtual winners in their respective districts.

The most stunning debacle is being suffered by the Martinez family, who were losing in the fourth district towns that they had held in a firm political grip for over 30 years.

Rep. Clavel Asas-Martinez, the author of a pending bill carving a new province composed of the towns in her district, was losing by a huge margin in her vice gubernatorial bid against erstwhile ally reelectionist Vice Gov. Greg Sanchez (One Cebu).

Her son Celestino II is tailing by a wide margin against One Cebu's candidate, former provincial board member Benhur Salimbagon.

Carmiano Kintanar, cousin of outgoing Rep. Simeon Kintanar who had authored a bill creating a province in his district, was tailing Pablo Garcia in the latest quick count of the C-Cimpel. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., Melvin Gascon, Villamor Visaya Jr., Juliet Cataluña, Cristina Arzadon, Gabriel Cardinoza, Yolanda-Sotelo Fuertes and Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon and Cesar Villa, Inquirer Central Luzon; Romulo O. Ponte and Gerald Gene Querubin, Inquirer Southern Luzon with a report from Edra Benedicto, Inquirer Visayas*

Failure of polls looms in Bacoor

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—TWO RIVAL politicians in Bacoor, Cavite on Thursday said they would ask the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to declare a failure of elections in the town following the allegations of massive vote-buying and harassment on their supporters.

Incumbent Mayor Jessie Castillo, who is running for congressman in the first district of Cavite, said his lawyers were already readying documents and evidence to prove their claims of poll irregularities.

Castillo, whose wife is vying for the seat he will vacate, said they had footage showing leaders of mayoral candidate Strike Revilla distributing money to residents in exchange for their votes.

He said they also caught armed goons and policemen purportedly hired by Revilla to sow terror among his followers.

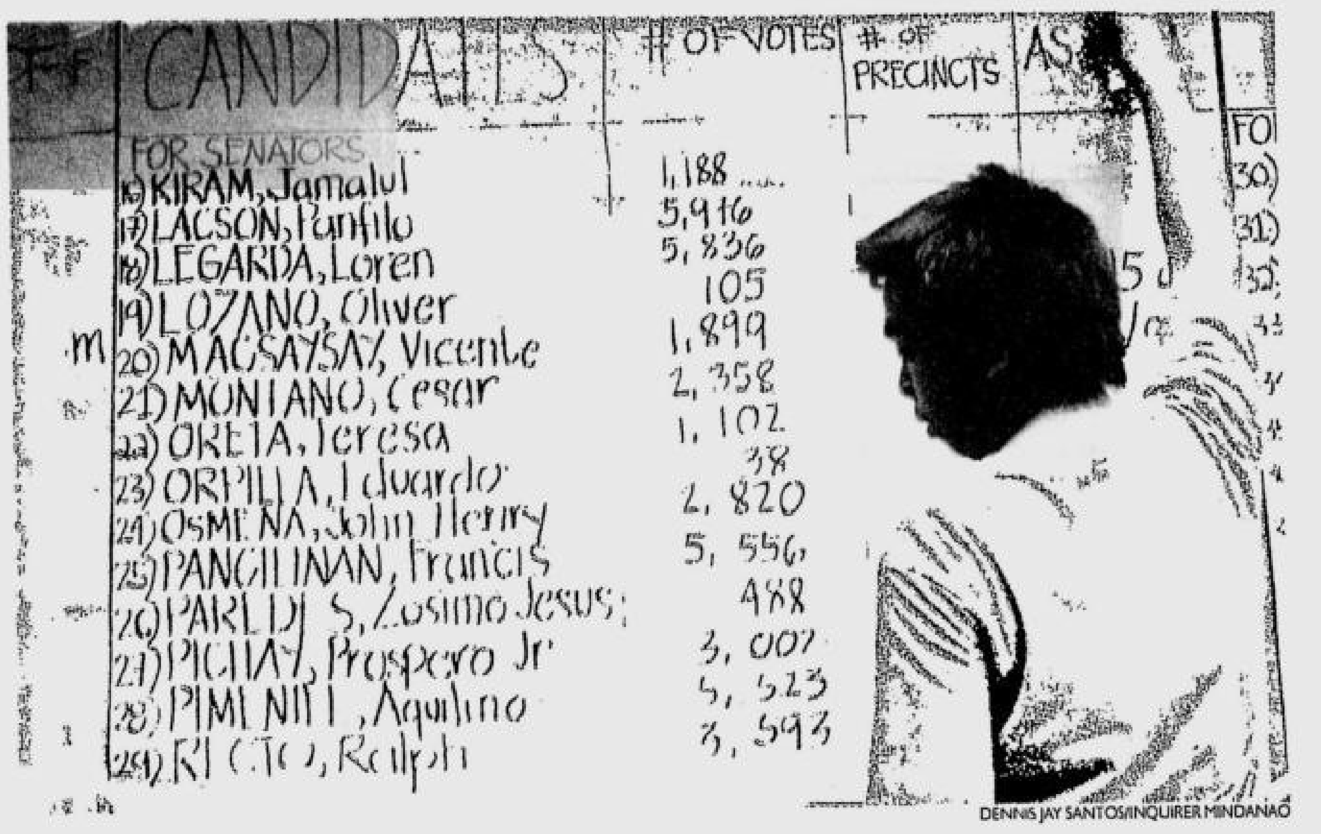
He said the presence of armed men in Bacoor was the main reason there was a low turnout of voters in his town.

"The election violations of Revilla were very glaring," Castillo said in a phone interview.

Mayoral candidate and incumbent Vice Mayor Edwin Malvar, Castillo's political rival, said he was also considering filing an appeal for a failure of elections.

"I might support (Castillo's) demand for a declaration of failure of elections because the election in Bacoor last Monday was full of flaws," he said.

Sought for comment, Senior Supt. Fidel Posadas, Cavite police director, said there was no justification for any declaration of failure of elections in Bacoor. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*



DENNIS JAY SANTOS/INQUIRER MINDANAO

SLEEP DEPRIVED
A volunteer of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections fights of lack of sleep during counting of votes in Davao City. The task won't be over until the last votes have been counted.

Int'l observers say landlords dictated vote

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—MEMBERS OF THE International Observers Mission Wednesday said they saw disturbing patterns of violence and irregularities during voting in many areas in Negros Occidental.

Among those that the observers saw were the proliferation of private armed groups and the presence of rival guerrillas belonging to the New People's Army and the Revolutionary Proletarian Army, said American observer Mullian Cheun.

Cheun said their three-man team visited La Castellana, Moises Padilla, Pulupandan and Valladolid towns, and Escalante and Bacolod cities in Negros Occidental.

The mission was conducted with the Compact for Peaceful Elections-Negros Occidental chapter.

Cheun said there was also disenfranchisement of voters due to their exclusion from the voters list, disenfranchisement and the limitation of political participation brought about by intimidation, as well as barricades erected by certain candidates barring people who don't support them.

She also cited the violation of election laws and processes such as giving out of sample ballots in front of polling stations, threats of eviction for failure to vote for certain candidates, reported cases of vote-buying and a lingering tradition of political dynasties.

No law enforcement

Observer Philipp Bueck from Germany said that while these things might be considered isolated, they were put into focus because of inaction by authorities who were supposed to enforce the law.

Lawrence Surendra, an Indian economist and part of the mission, said the observations were based on particular areas they visited.

"This is not a comprehensive observation and analysis of the entire electoral process of Negros Occidental due to the limitation of areas covered and the duration of the mission," he said.

However, he said, they believed these areas were "microcosms and a substantial reflection of the general electoral exercise in the entire region that must be collectively assessed and, if needed, be corrected."

"It is very clear that extreme conditions of poverty, wide disparity in wealth and income, large-scale unemployment, the existence of powerful land-owning groups, provide a very disturbing context for the conduct of free and fair elections," said a report released by the IOM during the press conference.

Inequalities

Because of those wielding too much power to advance special and personal interest, elections become a useful event to settle old scores, escalate violence and contribute to an overall atmosphere of insecurity and uncertainty among citizens, the IOM report said.

The IOM report said during its members' interviews with different people in Negros Occidental, they were made aware of cases where landowners still used the "vote or gabut (uproot)" tactic to solicit votes.

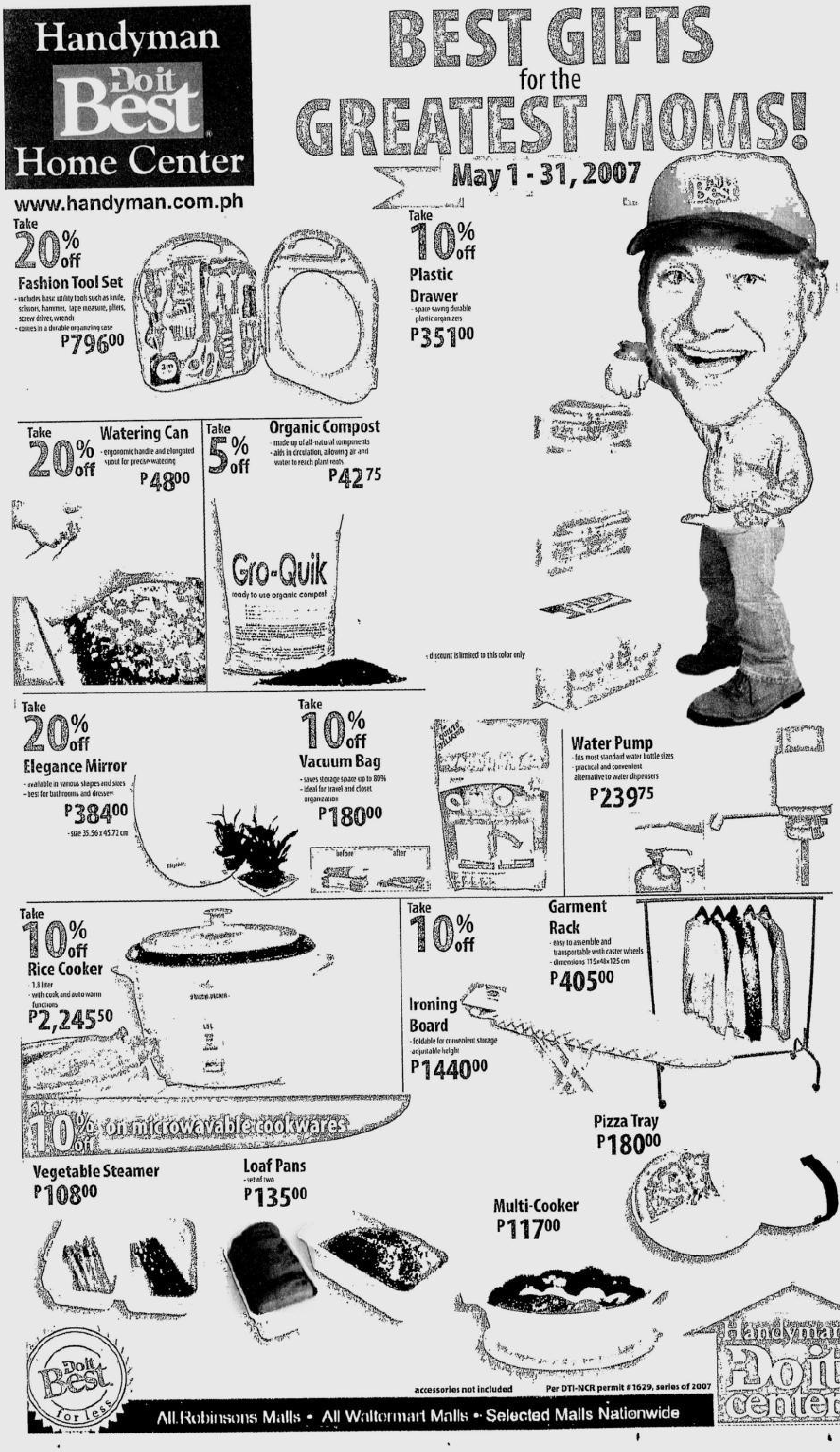
"Threats of forced evictions of many people described as squatters have become a clear issue in this election," the report said.

"Such threat is a threat to the very right to habitat and life of many poor people whose fundamental rights are grossly violated and who then have to cast their votes in such an atmosphere of insecurity," the IOM said.

In many haciendas, the IOM report said landowners also dictate to farmer-workers who to vote for.

"We have been witnesses on how polling centers themselves are located in the private property of landowners and are protected by barricades manned by private security guards barring supporters and poll watchers of political opponents," the IOM report added.

These did not constitute the conditions for a democratic and free exercise of voting in a country that describes itself as a democratic nation, the report said.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- discount is limited to this color only
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- ideal for travel and closet organization
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- practical and convenient alternative to water dispensers
P239.75
Take 10% off Rice Cooker
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- with cook and auto warm functions
P2,245.50
Take 10% off
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- dimensions 115x48x125 cm
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- adjustable height
P1440.00
Take 10% off on microwavable cookwares
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INQGRAPH: LOUIE BACANI

ELEKSYON 2007

CAR

BENGUET

BAGUIO CITY	
Mayor	
(PPCRV as of 3:47 pm, 690 precincts)	
BAUTISTA, Reinaldo Jr. (Kampi)	19744
BAUTISTA, Virgilio (Ind)	543
HERNANDEZ, Guillermo (Ind)	661
LABO, Ramon (KBL)	2552
NEVADA, Elmo (PRP)	4470
RAMOS, Felipe (Ind)	270
VERGARA, Bernardo (Lakas/NPC)	10960
YANGOT, Leandro Jr. (LP)	13595
YARANON, Braulio (LDP-UNO)	12203

IFUGAO

Governor	
(Comelec final results)	
BAGUILAT, Teodoro Jr. (LP)	winner
Vice Governor	
DINAMLING, Nora (LP)	winner
Congressman	
CHUNGALAO, Solomon (CAPP)	winner

MOUNTAIN PROVINCE

(Comelec final result)	
Governor	
DALOG, Maximo (Lakas-CMD)	winner
Vice Governor	
CLAVER, Louis Jr. (Ind)	winner
Congressman (lone)	
DOMINGUEZ, Victor (Kampi)	winner

ILOCOS REGION

ILOCOS NORTE

Governor	
(Namfrel as of 11 am, 21 towns	
KEON, Michael (Kampi)	129078
FARIÑAS, Rodolfo (NPC)	68519
Vice Governor	
CHUA, Windell (KBL)	151837
Congressman (1st district)	
(Namfrel as of 11 am, 10 towns)	
ABLAN, Roque Jr. (Lakas)	39507
SALES, Reynolan (PMP)	38548
VENTURA, Cesar (PDP-Laban)	827
Congressman (2nd district)	
MARCOS, Ferdinand Jr. (KBL)	102119
LAOAG CITY	
(Comelec final result)	
Mayor	
FARINAS, Michael (Kampi)	winner

ILOCOS SUR

(Comelec final results)	
Governor	
RAFANAN, Elren (PMP)	winner
Vice Governor	
SINGSON, Jeremias (Lakas)	winner
Congressman (1st district)	
SINGSON, Ronald (Lakas)	winner
Congressman (2nd district)	
SINGSON, Eric (LP)	winner
VIGAN CITY	
(Comelec final result)	
Mayor	
MEDINA, Eva Marie (Lakas)	winner
CANDON CITY	
(Comelec final result)	
Mayor	
SINGSON, Allen (Lakas)	winner

PANGASINAN

(PPCRV as of 3pm, 15 towns, 2 cities)	
Governor	
AGBAYANI, Jamie Eloise (Ind)	112489
ESPINO, Amado Jr. (Kampi)	146872
LAMBINO, Oscar (Lakas)	53209
Vice Governor	
PRIMICIAS, Marlyn (Kampi)	163427
VILLAR, Dionisio (Lakas)	97034
Congressman (3rd district)	
ARENAS, Ma. Rachel (Lakas)	43118
SORIANO, Gallant (PDSP)	34571
TULAGAN, Generoso Jr. (Kampi)	36086
DE VERA, Leocadio Jr. (NPC)	19744
Congressman (4th district)	
DE VENECIA, Jose Jr. (Lakas)	92665
LIM, Benjamin (PDP-Laban)	43585
Congressman (5th district)	
COJUANGCO, Marcos (NPC)	10582

CAGAYAN VALLEY

BATANES

(Comelec final result)	
Governor	
CASTILLEJOS, Telesforo (Lakas)	winner
Vice Governor	
AGSUNOD, William (Lakas)	winner
Congressman (lone)	
DIASNES, Carlo (Kampi)	winner

CAGAYAN

(Namfrel as of 10 am)	
Governor	
ANTONIO, Alvaro (Lakas)	100131
CALIMAG, Sherwin (Ind)	2023
DE LOS SANTOS, Joven (Ind)	694
ESPINOSA, Eladio (Ind)	1444
LARA, Edgar (NPC)	11277
PEREZ, Jose (Ind)	722
Vice Governor	
CAYOSA, Domingo (Ind)	49540
FAUSTO, Leonides (LP)	73306
FERNANDEZ, Estrella (Ind)	7405
PAGULAYAN, Oscar Jr (LDP)	35440
PASCUAL, Florante (NPC)	51354
SANTOS, Bernie (Ind)	1130
Congressman (3rd district)	
MAMBA, Manuel (LP)	67189
TING, Randolph (Lakas)	67583
TUGUEGARAO CITY	
(Namfrel as of 7 am)	
Mayor	
TING, Delfin (Lakas)	1713
ARUGAY, Arnel (Kampi)	1451

ISABELA

(Comelec as of 2 pm, 22 towns 1 city)	
Governor	
DY, Benjamin (NPC)	82421
PADACA, Maria Gracia Cielo (LP)	107872
Vice Governor	
REYES, Ramon (Lakas)	100752
UY, Mercedes (NPC)	65571
Congressman (1st district)	
ALBANO, Rodolfo III (Kampi)	19536
SOLIVEN, Stephen (UNO)	224
Congressman (2nd district)	
CALDERON, Benedict (NPC)	31843
UY, Edwin (Lakas)	52044
Congressman (3rd district)	
DY, Faustino III (NPC)	15670
FELIPE, Marianito (KBL)	958
NIETO, Raul (Ind)	40
Congressman (4th district)	
AGGABAO, Giorgidi (UNO)	13264
MIRANDA, Anthony (Kampi)	9996
SANTIAGO CITY	
(Comelec as of 2 pm)	
Mayor	
MIRANDA, Jose Sr. (Kampi)	5248
NAVARRO, Amelita (Lakas)	8745
TAN, Armando (LP)	7546
CAUYAN CITY	
(Comelec final result)	
Mayor	
DY, Caesar (NPC)	winner

NUEVA VIZCAYA

Governor	
(Namfrel as of 12 pm, 1095 precincts)	
AGBAYANI, Rodolfo (NPC/Kampi)	50504
CUARESMA, Ma. Luisa (NP)	65932
Vice Governor	
GAMBITO, Jose (Abante Nueva Vizcaya)	65932
SADDUL, Reonel (NPC)	46013
Congressman (lone)	
LANTION, Ralph (Lakas-CMD)	41764
PADILLA, Carlos (NP)	72061
SALUN-AT, Ernesto (Ind)	4227
VICTORIO, Felizardo (Ind)	385

CENTRAL LUZON

BULACAN

(PPCRV as of 1 pm, 16 towns)	
Governor	
Mendoza, Joselito (Kampi)	107590
Pagdanganan, Roberto (Lakas-CMD)	95665
Plamenco, Aurelio (PMP-UNO)	53687
Vice Governor	
ANIAG, Pacifico (Kampi)	74499
FERNANDO, Daniel (PMP/UNO)	70752
SY-ALVARADO, Wilhelmino (Lakas)	98631
Congressman (1st district)	
Ople, Felix (Kampi)	12690
Sy-Alvarado, Ma. Victoria (Lakas)	20194
Congressman (2nd district)	
Cruz, Ambrosio Jr. (Kampi)	60977
Pancho, Pedro (Lakas)	73273
Congressman (3rd district)	
Domingo, Ricardo (Ind)	
Silverio, Lorna (Lakas)	27829
Valdecantos, Renato (PMP)	34959
Congressman (4th district)	
De Silva, Rudolph Bryan (PMP-UNO)	2007
Nicolas, Reylina (Lakas)	5237
Pleyto, Salvador (Kampi)	4700
CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE	
Congressman	
BARTOLOME, Felipe (Lakas)	6517
ROBES, Arturo (Kampi)	5062

NUEVA ECIJA

Congressman (1st district)	
DIAZ, Renato (Lakas)	43098
JOSON, Eduardo Nonato (Balane)	44107
Congressman (2nd district)	
FELIMON, Jose (Kampi)	22167
FLORA, Nemesio (Ind)	1226
GARCIA, Simeon (PMP)	27264
VIOLAGO, Joseph Gilbert (Lakas)	49191
Congressman (3rd district)	
CHUA, Voltaire (Kampi)	52767
FAJARDO, Pacifico (LP)	21102
JOSON, Eduardo IV (UNO)	17044
UMALI, Czarina (Lakas)	66144
Congressman (4th district)	
ANTONINO, Rodolfo (Kampi)	66864
PADIERNOS, Gay (Lakas)	36557

PAMPANGA

(Namfrel/PPCRV as of 4:06 pm)	
Governor	
LAPID, Mark (Lakas)	181982
PANLILIO, Eddie (Ind)	195836
PINEDA, Lilia (Kampi)	189000

TARLAC

Governor	
(Comelec as of 4 pm, 2786 precincts)	
COJUANGCO, Jose Jr. (Kampi)	126579+
YAP, Victor (NPC)	145037
Congressman (1st district)	
(Comelec final result)	
PRIETO-TEODORO, Monica Louise (NPC)	winner
Congressman (2nd district)	
(Comelec as of 4 pm, 361 precincts)	
TABAMO, Guillermina (Kampi)	11453
YAP, Jose (Lakas)	23973
Congressman (3rd district)	
(Comelec final result)	
LAPUS, Jeci (Lakas)	winner

ZAMBALES

(Comelec final result)	
Governor	
DELOSO, Amor (LP)	winner
Vice Governor	
GORDON, Anne Marie (LP)	winner
Congressman (1st district)	
LACBAIN, Ramon III (LP)	winner
Congressman (2nd district)	
DIAZ, Antonio (Lakas)	winner

CALABARZON

BATANGAS

(Comelec as of 3 pm, 18 towns and 1 city)	
Governor	
SANTOS-RECTO, Rosa Vilma (Lakas)	174239
SANARES, Nestor (PMP)	24870
SANCHEZ, Armando (Kampi)	162541
MANDANAS, Marcos Sr. (Ind)	2383
Vice Governor	
BUSTAMANTE, Praxedes (Ind)	1364
DE LEON, Christopher (UNO)	75577
ERMITA, Edwin (Lakas)	171586
LEVISTE, Jose Antonio II (Kampi)	186495
MAGSOMBOL, Fortunata (KBL)	339
Congressman (1st district)	
ERMITA-BUHAIN, Elenita (Lakas)	584474
APACIBLE, Raymund (UNO)	45410
Congressman (2nd district)	
GUTIERREZ, Luis (Ind)	27
CABIGAO, Orestas (Lakas)	2207
MANDANAS, Hermilando (LP)	37857
MENDOZA, Edgar (Kampi)	5076
Congressman (3rd district)	
REYES, Victoria (Lakas)	63842
COLLANTES, Nelson (Kampi)	39685
Congressman (4th district)	
SABILI, Meynardo (Ind)	74183
MENDOZA, Mark Llandro (NPC)	77634
RECTO, Richard (UNO)	194458
BATANGAS CITY	
(Comelec final result)	
Mayor	
DIMACUHA, Eduardo (Kampi)	winner
Vice Mayor	
TOLENTINO, Jose (Lakas)	winner
LIPA CITY *(PPCRV as of 4:48 p.m., 534 precincts)*	
Mayor	
AFRICA, Eric (Kampi)	15500
GOZOS, Oscar (Lakas)	54411
PANGANIBAN, Mario (PMP)	8022

LAGUNA

(Comelec as of 3.30 pm, 13 towns)	
Governor	
LAZARO, Teresita (Lakas)	82956
OLIVAREZ, Edwin (UNO)	74605
Vice Governor, PPCRV as of 2:14 p.m.	
HERNANDEZ, Ramil (UNO)	106968
SISON, Raul Marco (Lakas)	75547
Congressman (2nd district) PPCRV as of 4:51 p.m.	
CHIPECO, Justin Mark (NP)	14044
TAPIA, Susano (Ind)	2039
Congressman (3rd district) PPCRV as of 2:14 p.m.	
ALAVA, Adoracion (Kampi)	6914
AMANTE, Damaso (Ind)	3063
AQUINO, Florante (Lakas)	25725
ARAGO, Maria Evita (LP)	33616
ATIENZA, Andrew (Ind)	753
GAPANGADA, Arcadio Najie (NPC)	27144
VELASCO, Enrico (Kampi)	2914
SAN PABLO CITY	
Mayor	
AMANTE, Vicente (NPC/LDP/Aksyon Demokratiko)	winner
BIÑAN *(Namfrel as of 10 a.m.)*	
Mayor	
ALONTE-NAGUIAT, Marlyn (UNO)	29781
DESUASIDO, Alexis (Kampi)	4374
YATCO, Ruben Francisco(Lakas-CMD)	23404
DEOCARIS, Hermisita (Ind)	244

QUEZON

(Namfrel as of 12 nn)	
Governor	
NANTES, Rafael (LP)	133516
SUAREZ, David (Kampi)	134298
Vice Governor	
PORTES, Carlos (Kampi)	130481
RODRIGUEZ, Eduardo (LP)	76722
Congressman (1st district)	
LLAMAS, Fernando (LP)	29558
PASAMBA, Eladio (LAKAS CMD)	24936
ENVERGA, Mark (KAMPI)	45471
Congressman (2nd district)	
ALCALA, Proceso (LP)	85218
ALVAREZ, Liza (Kampi)	34658
Congressman (3rd district)	
REYES, Victor (LP)	3984
SUAREZ, Danilo (Kampi)	13406
Congressman (4th district)	
RABAYA, Vicente Sr. (NPC)	2766
TAÑADA, Lorenzo (LP)	22716
MALITE, Narciso (Lakas)	4429
CITY OF LUCENA	
Mayor	
ALCALA, Roderick (LP)	26798
TALAGA, Ramon Jr. (Kampi)	39420

MIMAROPA

MARINDUQUE C

(Comelec as of 6 pm, May 16)	
Governor	
CARRION, Jose Antonio (Ind)	25276
DAQUIOAG, Narciso (Ind)	8159
GO, Melecio (Kampi)	11297
MORALES, Percival (Lakas)	24154
RED, Wilfredo (UNO)	16464
Vice Governor	
PALMA, Leandro (Lakas)	31659
PIZARRO, Tomas (Kampi)	42357
Congressman	
ALIÑO, Santiago (Ind)	3243
LIM, James (Ind)	38598
REYES, Carmencita (Lakas)	46045
BOAC	
Mayor	
SOLOMON, Meynardo (Lakas)	winner

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

(Comelec as of 5.45 pm, 7 out of 11 towns)	
Governor	
SATO, Josephine (NPC)	44993
OMANIO, Ronnie (Ind)	30519
Vice Governor	
MENDIOLA, Mario Gene (NPC)	40616
LADAGA, Rey (Kampi)	28647
Congressman	
VILLAROSA, Ma. Amelita (Kampi)	38840
JARAVATA, Ernesto (NPC)	32004
ARRIOLA, Pete (UNO)	807
PIMENTEL, Samloan Sr. (PMP)	121

ORIENTAL MINDORO

(Namfrel as of 11 am, 1501 precincts)	
Governor	
PANALIGAN, Arnan (Lakas)	152400
MARASIGAN, Murphy (PMP)	66637
Vice Governor	
DELOS REYES, Antonio (PMD)	50300
ACERON, Ma. Estela Felipa (LAKAS-CMD)	146571
Congressman (1st district)	
VALENCIA, Rodolfo (Lakas)	75766
LEVISTE, Renato (NPC)	64017
DELOS REYES, Pol Alzona (Ind)	1370
Congressman (2nd district)	
SALCEDO, Margaux Marie (PMP)	29137
UMALI, Alfonso (LP)	68923
CALAPAN CITY, 233 precincts	
REPIZO, Gilbert (KAMPI)	3065
RAMIREZ, Gil (LDP)	8199
LEACHON, Paulino (Liberal)	10955
PARAS, Roberto (LAKAS-CMD)	10343

PALAWAN

(Comelec as of 3.20 pm)	
Governor	
REYES, Mario Joel (Lakas)	51821
ACOSTA, Andrie (Ind)	1107
KATON, Edmundo (Ind)	138
Vice Governor	
PONCE DE LEON, David (NPC)	48053
Congressman (2nd district)	
MITRA, Abraham Kahlil (NPC)	30700
LOPEZ, Richard (Ind)	128
MORALES, Christopher (Ind)	163
LAGASCA, Raymundo Jr. (LP)	10657
PUERTO PRINCESA CITY	
Mayor	
HAGEDORN, Edward (Kampi)	41363
MATILLANO, Eduardo (Kampi)	17677
BATARAZA, COMELEC as of 11p.m., May 16	
Mayor	
IBBA, Abraham M. - (Lakas)	11485
QUITAIN, Herminio H - LP	8371

ROMBLON

(Namfrel as of 5 pm)	
Governor	
BELTRAN, Natalio Jr. (Lakas)	41736
GAAN, Telesforo (Ind)	2560
GUTIERREZ, Armando (Kampi)	29905
MARAVILLA, Venizar (UNO)	5790
ROMERO, Samuel (Ind)	12170
Vice Governor	
FETALVERO, Alicia	44703
FONDEVILLA, Andres (Lakas)	39552
Congressman	
CABRERA, Jose Cesar (UNO)	1133
FIRMALO, Eduardo (Kampi)	46578
MADRONA, Eleandro (Lakas)	53348

BICOL

ALBAY

(PPCRV as of 7 am, 1923 precincts)	
Governor	
BICHARA, Stephen(Ind)	9470
GONZALEZ, Fernando (Lakas)	87042
QUIAPON, Abdiel Noel	7786
SALCEDA, Jose Ma. Clemente (Ind)	92775
Vice Governor	
AZAÑA, Danilo	19097
BAYLON, Carlito	33560
ESTEVEZ, Pepe	44220
SAEL, Brando	48476
Congressman (2nd district) PPCRV as of 7 a.m.	
APIN, Amelia Bonita (UNO)	23180
BICHARA, Al Francis (NP)	38034
IMPERIAL, Carlos (Lakas)	28212
MERCADER, Noel (Ind)	100
Congressman (3rd district)	
ABILA, Arnel (Ind)	467
LIM, Reno (NPC)	39447
PRINCESA, Reynaldo (Aksyon Demokratiko)	9062
LEGAZPI CITY	
(PPCRV as of 7 am)	
Mayor	
IMPERIAL, Michael Victor (NPC)	29165
ROSAL, Noel (Lakas)	35575
VALENCIA, Reynaldo (Ind)	63
LIGAO CITY, FINAL COMELEC RESULTS as of 4 p.m.	
(Comelec final result)	
GONZALEZ, Linda	winner
GUINOBATAN	
(Comelec final result)	
Mayor	
GARCIA, Juan (Lakas-CMD)	winner

CAMARINES SUR

(Comelec as of 3.50 am, 183 precincts)	
Governor	
PILAPIL, Eduardo P. (Kampi)	116753
VILLAFUERTE, Luis Raymund Jr. F. (Lakas-CMD)	129639
Congressman (1st district), 7 out of 10 towns	
ARROYO, Diosdado Ignacio Jose Maria M. (Kampi)	41479
MABULO, Sabas M. (LP/UNO)	28033
Congressman (3rd district)	
BOMBASE, Elmo (Kampi)	25522
FUENTEBELLA, Arnulfo (NPC)	66359
Congressman (4th district), 307 precincts	
ALFELOR, Felix Jr. (Kampi)	414701
BELZA, Diones (Lakas)	14795

MASBATE

(PPCRV as of 3 pm, 95 percent complete)	
Governor	
ESPINOSA, Emilio Jr. (NPC)	103312
KHO, Olga (Lakas)	125415
SAÑANO, Armando (Kampi)	11135

SORSOGON

(Namfrel as of 1 pm)	
Governor	
ESCUDERO, Antonio (UNO)	15499
HAMOR, Edwin (NP)	57303
LEE, Inocencio Jr. (Ind)	193
LEE, Sally (Lakas)	54492
Vice Governor	
DERI, Oscar	48722
LAURUNARIA, Renato	44905
Congressman (1st District)	
BALMACEDA, Cesar (Ind)	9181
BAÑARES, Jerry (Kampi)	1504
DINEROS, Daniel (Ind)	68
DURAN, Jose Vicente (Lakas)	18568
ESCUDERO, Salvador III (UNO)	35729
OCAMPO, Isagani (Ind)	372
Congressman (2nd district)	
DE CASTRO, Alex (Ind)	117
GOLPEO, Edna (Ind)	60
GOLPEO, Ricardo (NPC)	12969
GONZALES, Rodolfo (PDP-Laban)	16355
RAMOS, Cyril (UNO)	14597
SOLIS, Jose (Kampi)	14141
SORSOGON CITY	
Mayor	
AQUINO, Rebecca (LP)	1388
CHUA, Roman (Ind)	1419
DELGADO, Rosalio Jr. (Ind)	1099
DIONEDA, Leovic (UNO/NP)	29307
RODRIGUEZA, Robert (Lakas)	20398
Vice Mayor	
ABEAR, Belen (IND)	4701
ATUTUBO, Edmundo (UNO/NP)	22575
GERONA, Rofedar (LAKAS/CMD)	11779
GO, Michael (IND)	8749
LASTICA, Aristeo (IND)	246

WESTERN VISAYAS

AKLAN

(Comelec, as of 3.30 p.m.; 1,216 of 1,322 precincts)	
Governor	
GALVAN, Kareen	918
GARCIA, Ma. Bettina	28543
MARQUEZ, Carlito	83821
RAMOS, Victoria	68295
Vice Governor	
CALIZO, Gabrielle	102512
TOLENTINO, Ronquillo	64309
Congressman	
MIRAFLORES, Florencio	104926
ACEVEDO, Anthony	41491

GUIMARAS (final, 204 precincts)

Governor	
MIAQUE, Bernie (Kampi)	22,144
NAVA, Felipe (Kampi)	43,288
Vice Governor	
JABASA, Edgardo A. (Lakas-CMD)	23,017
TIONADO, Aurelio G. (Kampi)	37,847
Congressman	
ESPINOSA, Edgar (Lakas)	31,223
NAVA, Joaquin Carlos Rahman (NPC/Kampi)	37,285

ILOILO

(Namfrel as of 5 a.m., 990 out of 1,144 precincts)	
Governor	
CAMPOSANO, Serapio (Ind)	318
ROBERTO, Armando (Lakas)	27573
TUPAS, Niel Sr. (LP)	53852
Vice Governor	
OSO, Domingo B. (LP)	25157
SUPLICO, Rolex T. (Independent)	52897
Congressman (1st district)	
FLORES, Gerardo (LP)	794
GARIN, Janet (Lakas)	7578
Congressman (2nd district)	
JALBUENA-SYJUCO, Judy (Lakas)	7861
GONZALES, Diopito (Ind)	536
CAPADOSA, Cecilia (LP)	3218
Congressman (3rd district)	
DEFENSOR, Arthur Sr. (Lakas)	7330
LAURON, Zafiro (LP)	1325
Congressman (4th district)	
BIRON, Ferjenel (Lakas)	26843
DISTURA, Rolando (NPC)	8033
Congressman (5th district)	
SULPICO, Enrique Jr. (Lakas)	13229
TUPAS, Niel Jr. (LP/PDP-Laban)	19123
ILOILO CITY	
Congressman	
GONZALES, Raul Jr. (Lakas)	68,198
MALABOR, Mansueto (PDP-Laban)	25,556
GENGOS, Vicente (LP)	30,910
Mayor	
TREÑAS, Jerry (Lakas)	109,585
ALIM, Joshua (PDP-Laban)	17603
GAJE, Juanito	50
Vice Mayor	
MABILOG, Jed Patrick E. (Lakas-CMD)	111,866
PORRAS, Winstone T. (PDP-Laban)	7,531

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

(Comelec as of 5 p.m.)	
Governor (1,213 of 10,313 precincts)	
MARAÑON, Joseph (NPC)	95,487
TRIBACO, Luisito (KBL)	526
VALLADAREZ, German (Ind)	501
Vice Governor (1,213 of 10,313 precincts)	
ZAYCO, Pedro (Unopposed) Lakas-CMD	80947
Congressman (2nd district) (Comelec, final)	
MARAÑON, Alfredo III (Kampi)	58604
ARIAS, Oscar (Ind)	6097
Congressman (3rd district)	
(Comelec, as of 9 a.m.: 216 of 1,557 precincts)	
LACSON, Jose Carlos (Lakas)	23606
DEPASUCAT, Reynaldo (LP)	10703
Congressman (5th district)	
(Comelec, as of 9 p.m., May 16, 2007; 711 of 1,493 precincts)	
ARROYO, Ignacio Jr. (Kampi/Lakas)	33759
LOZADA, Jose Apolinario Jr. (LP)	21177
Congressman (6th district)	
(Comelec, as of 9 p.m., May 16, 2007; 481 of 1,388)	
ALVAREZ, Genaro Rafael III (UNA)	23679
DABAO, Jesus Manuel (LP)	13431
BACOLOD CITY	
(Comelec, as of noon; 377 of 1,181 precincts)	
Congressman	
HAGAD, Andres (Ind)	5,410
NOVERO, Renecito (NPC)	20,440
PUENTEVELLA, Monico (Lakas)	20,185
Mayor	
BERDIN, Jovito (Ind)	14,418
LEONARDIA, Evelio (NPC)	29,956
PONTERAS, Vicente (LP)	2,185
Vice Mayor	
CAÑA, Lyndon (Independent)	16,702
SAYSON, Jude Thaddeus (NPC)	9,915
SY, Elmer (Lakas CMD)	19,005
BAGO CITY	
Mayor	
TORRES, Ramon (NPC/UNA)	winner
Vice Mayor	
YULO, Nicholas (NPC-UNA)	winner
CADIZ CITY	
Mayor	
ESCALANTE, Salvador Jr. (Lakas/UNA)	winner
Vice Mayor	
MIRHAN, Samson (KAMPI-UNA)	winner
ESCALANTE CITY	
Mayor	
YAP, Melecio Jr (Lakas)	winner
Vice Mayor	
BARCELONA, Santiago (NPC)	winner
HIMAMAYLAN CITY	
Mayor	
BASCON, Carminia (Kampi)	winner
Vice Mayor	
BAYOT, Luz (KAMPI)	winner
KABANKALAN CITY	
Mayor	
ZAYCO, Pedro Jr. (Lakas)	winner
Vice Mayor	
ANACAN, Delia (Lakas-CMD)	winner
LA CARLOTA CITY	
Mayor	
HONRADO, Demie John (NPC/UNA)	winner
Vice Mayor	
BRAGA, David Jr. (KAMPI-UNA)	winner
SAGAY CITY	
Mayor	
MARAÑON, Alfredo Jr. (NPC/UNA)	winner
Vice Mayor	
CUEVA, Leo Rafael (NPC-UNA)	winner
SAN CARLOS CITY	
Mayor	
LACSON, Eugenio Jose (NPC)	winner
Vice Mayor	
VALMAYOR, Gerardo Jr. (NPC)	winner
SILAY CITY	
Mayor	
MONTELIBANO, Jose (Lakas)	winner
Vice Mayor	
GOLEZ, Mark Andrew Arthur (Lakas-CMD)	winner
SIPALAY CITY	
Mayor	
MONTILLA, Soleda (NPC/UNA)	winner
Vice Mayor	
MONTILLA, Oscar Jr.(UNA-NPC)	winner
TALISAY CITY	
Mayor	
SARATAN, Eric (Kampi)	winner
Vice Mayor	
LIZARES, Nilo Jesus Antonio Nell III (KAMPI)	winner
VICTORIAS CITY	
Mayor	
PALANCA, Severo (Lakas)	winner
Vice Mayor	
PALANCA, Francis Frederick (Lakas-CMD-UNA)	winner
BINALBAGAN CITY	
Mayor	
MIRASOL, Alejandro (NPC)	winner
Vice Mayor	
ARANDA, Emmanuel (KAMPI)	winner

CENTRAL VISAYAS

BOHOL (Comelec)

Governor (as of 9 a.m.; 2,959 of 3,263 precincts)	
AUMENTADO, Erico (Lakas)	356,141
CERICOS, Roberto (PDP-Laban)	10,050
DEJAN, Sixto (PDP-Laban)	1400
DALAY, Renato (Ind)	6918
DUMALUAN, Teofanes (Ind)	1346
MAGAT, Mario Jr. (Ind)	5,910
PELIGRINO, Peter (Ind)	456
Vice Governor (as of 9 a.m.; 2,959 of 3,263 precincts)	
HERRERA, Julius Caesar	264,261
TIROL, Godofreda	101,674
Congressman (1st district)	
(as of 9 a.m.; 973 of 1,044 precincts)	
CHATTO, Edgardo (NPC)	117,128
DELA SERNA, Victor (PDP-Laban)	12,849
Congressman (2nd district)	
(as of 9 a.m.; 962 of 1,074 precincts)	
CAJES, Roberto (Lakas)	94,282
GARCIA, Wenceslao (PDP-Laban)	8,634
Congressman (3rd district)	
(as of 9 a.m.; 1,024 of 1,145 precincts)	
JALA, Adam Relson (Lakas)	56,911
RELAMPAGOS, Rene (LDP)	54,727
BALITE, Dionisio (Kampi)	24,988
INTE, Victoriano (Ind)	112
LIM, Alexander (Aksyon Demokratiko)	14,890
MANDERA, Rigoberto (Ind)	257
TAGBILARAN CITY (final)	
Mayor	
LIM, Dan (NPC)	winner
Vice Mayor (final)	
VELOSO, Jose Antonio (Lakas)	winner

CEBU

(C-Cimpel, as of 11 36 a.m.)	
Governor (3,604 of 11,047 precincts)	
GARCIA, Gwendolyn (Kampi)	272,212
LEJARDE, Rolando (Ind)	985
OSMEÑA, Mary Joyce (Ind)	6,316
YAPHA, Antonio Jr. (PDSP)	85,262
Vice Governor (3,604 of 11,047 precincts)	
MARTINEZ, Clavel	94,535
SANCHEZ, Gregorio	229,865
Congressman (1st district) (1,003 of 1,739 precincts)	
ADLAWAN, Ricardo (Ind)	694
BOLOGAITA, Alex (Promdi)	346
CONCEPCION, Felipe (Ind)	1261
GULLAS, Eduardo (Kampi)	88302
RAMA, Enrique (UNO)	8767
Congressman (2nd district) (357 of 1,775 precincts)	
ABINES, Crisologo (GO)	2460
CAMASURA, Franklin (Ind)	150
GARCIA, Pablo (Kampi)	15502
KINTANAR, Carmiano (Lakas/NPC)	8803
LOZADA, Jose Mari (Lakas-PMP-KBL)	34
Congressman (3rd district) (107 of 1,741 precincts)	
GARCIA, Pablo John (Kampi)	6388
YAPHA, Estrella (Lakas)	2670
Congressman (4th district)	
MARTINEZ, Celestino III (Lakas)	7758
SALIMBANGON, Benhur (Kampi)	13562
MARTINEZ, Edilito	38
Congressman (5th district) (709 precincts)	
DURANO, Ramon VI (NPC)	50636
WAGAS, Gilbert (LP)	13097
Congressman (6th district) (1,056 of 2,377 precincts)	
SOON-RUIZ, Nerissa (Kampi)	55,370
QUISUMBING, Gabriel Luis (Lakas)	51,857
DELA SERNA, Vicente (Ind)	4716
CEBU CITY	
Congressman (1st District) (831 of 1,183 precincts)	
DEL MAR, Raul (Lakas-BOPK)	84,983
VILLARIN, Florencio (GO)	4,931
ARENASA, Juan (Ind)	565
Congressman (2nd District) (1,089 of 1,830 precincts)	
CUENCO, Antonio (Lakas-BOPK)	53,834
GUARDO, Jonathan (GO)	40,293
Mayor (1,920 of 3,013 precincts)	
OSMEÑA, Tomas (BOPK)	123,313
DELOS SANTOS, Mary Ann (GO)	71,514
Vice Mayor (1,920 of 3,013 precincts)	
ABANGAN, Critilufo F. (Independent)	705
GARCIA, Raymond Alvin N. (Uno-Kusog)	51,596
RAMA, Michael L. (BOPK-Lakas-CMD)	138,209
TALISAY CITY	
Mayor	
FERNANDEZ, Socrates (Kampi)	winner
Vice Mayor	
ABARQUEZ, Lani Z. (Lakas-CMD)	winner

NEGROS ORIENTAL

(Comelec, final)	
DUMAGUETE CITY	
Mayor	
PERDICES, Agustin	winner
Vice Mayor:	
MAQUILING, Woodrow S. Sr. (Liberal)	winner

EASTERN VISAYAS

BILIRAN

(Comelec, final)	
Governor	
ALMADRO, Ruben (LP)	19415
AMBE, Edgardo (Ind)	280
ESPINA, Rogelio (Lakas)	43007
Vice Governor	
CURSO Lucila (LakasCMD)	24977
JARO, Chris (Independent- LP)	9275
MADERAZO, Melchor (Independent)	16627
Congressman (lone)	
CHONG, Glenn (LP)	36097
ESPINA, Gerardo Sr. (Kampi)	30356
VISBAL, Robert (Ind)	103

EASTERN SAMAR

(Namfrel, as of 6.30 a.m., 30 of 41 towns)	
Governor	
CARMENFORTE, Camilo (UNO-GO)	17010
EVARDONE, Ben (Lakas)	69427
Vice Governor	
ANASABIAS, Rudolfo	8238
GELI, Leander	71087
Congressman (lone)	
COQUILLA, Teodulo (PMP-UNO)	59651
DOCENA, Agustin (UNO-GO)	1066
LIBANAN, Elda (Lakas)	57406

LEYTE

Governor	
PETILLA, Carlos Jericho (Lakas)	winner
Vice Governor	
BAGULAYA, Mimiette (Liberal Party)	winner
Congressman (1st district)	
(Comelec, as of 10:15 a.m.; 5 of 7 towns)	
CHUA, Danilo (UNO)	299
CLEMENCIO, Feliciano (PMP)	8244
ROMUALDEZ, Ferdinand Martin (Kampi)	41235
Congressman (2nd district)	
(Comelec, as of 10:15 a.m.; 11 of 14 towns)	
ALBAO, Ranulfo (PMP)	23549
APOSTOL, Trinidad (Lakas)	61089
Congressman (3rd district) (Comelec, final)	
SALVACION, Andres (PDSP)	winner
Congressman (4th district) (Comelec, final)	
CODILLA, Eufrocino Sr. (Lakas)	winner
Congressman (5th district)	
(Comelec, as of 10: 15 a.m.; 5 of 9 towns)	
ASTORGA, Arturo (UNO)	3241
CARI, Carmen (Lakas)	49485
TAN, Raymundo (PMP)	457
TACLOBAN CITY	
Mayor	
Comelec/partial as of 1:45 pm (5/17/07)	
240 of 496 precincts	
MARTINEZ-MATE, Veronica (Ind)	87
PALAMI, Dan Stephen (LP)	11828
ROMUALDEZ, Alfred (Lakas)	22253
ROMUALDEZ, Francisco (Ind)	134
Vice Mayor	
ANTONI, Arvin (Liberal Party)	15234
ANTONI, Rogelio (Independent)	135
CHUA, Edwin (Kampi)	15182

WESTERN SAMAR

Governor (Namfrel, as of 3 a.m., 669 precincts)	
FIGUEROA, Nelptha (Lakas)	53877
TAN, Milagrosa (Kampi)	63,463
Vice Governor (Namfrel, as of 3 a.m.; 669 precincts)	
REDAJA, Jesus (Kampi)	49,801
TIOPES, Menandro (Lakas-CMD)	48871
Congressman (1st district) (Namfrel, as of 3 a.m.)	
GREY, Joseph (PDSP)	40683
UY, Reynaldo (LP/Lakas)	53839
Congressman (2nd district) (Namfrel, as of 3 a.m.)	
FIGUEROA, Catalino (PDP-Laban)	28840
TAN, Sharee Ann (Kampi)	31,860
CATBALOGAN	
Mayor	
ARCALES, Fe	64
UY, Coefredo	1,618
CALBAYOG *(Namfrel, as of 9 a.m.)*	
Mayor	
SARMIENTO, Mel Senen (LP-Lakas)	34,331
TUAZON, Rudolfo (Kampi-NP)	27,567
Vice Mayor	
AQUINO, Ronaldo (LP)	36,310
ROSALES, Ariel (Kampi)	23,871

ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA

ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR

ZAMBOANGA CITY	
(Namfrel as of 4:42 pm)	
Congressman (1st District)	
GONZALES, Eldigario (Lakas)	29081
CLIMACO, Maria Isabelle (LDP)	48910
Congressman (2nd District)	
DELOS REYES, Susan (Ind)	17360
ENSANDO, Samuel (Ind)	4095
FABIAN, Erico (LDP)	55432
Mayor	
CAJUCOM, Cleofe (Ind)	2817
DELA CRUZ, Crisanto (Lakas/Kampi)	69308
LOBREGAT, Celso (Lakas)	101354
SAKILIN, Sonny (Ind)	808

ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY

Governor	
HOFER, George (Ind)	winner
Vice Governor	
OLEGARIO, Rey Andre (Lakas)	winner
Congressman (1st district)	
CABILAO, Belma (Lakas)	winner
Congressman (2nd district)	
HOFER, Dulce Ann (Ind)	winner
IPIL	
Mayor	
ALIBUTDAN, Edwin (Lakas)	winner

NORTHERN MINDANAO

BUKIDNON

Governor (Comelec as of 3:15 pm, 2447 precincts)	
ACOSTA, Nereus Jr. (LP)	54459
ZUBIRI, Jose Ma. Jr. (Lakas)	260733
Vice Governor	
CALINGASAN, Alex (Lakas)	198621
DOYDORA, Ricardo (LP)	16637
Congressman (1st district)	
(Comelec as of 3:15 pm, 828 precincts)	
ACOSTA, Ma. Lourdes (LP)	39015
GARCILLANO, Virgilio (Ind)	22390
PANCRUDO, Candido Jr. (Lakas)	39136
Congressman (2nd district)	
(Comelec as of 3:15 pm, 783 precincts)	
ARTACHO, Mario Gerardo (LP)	127
BIOCO, Rodorico (Kampi)	32048
GALARIO, Glen (Kampi)	18090
GUINGONA, Teofisto III (NPC/UNO)	39622
TABIOS, Ernesto (Ind)	13662
Congressman (3rd district)	
(Comelec as of 3:15 pm, 836 precincts)	
GARDONES, Fabian (PMP)	6283
ZUBIRI, Jose Ma. III (Lakas)	85922

LANAO DEL NORTE

Governor (Namfrel as of 5:20 pm)	
DIMAPORO, Mohammad Khalid (Lakas)	29689
RIZALDA, Rafael (Kampi)	17723
Congressman (1st district)	
(Namfrel as of 5:20 pm)	
DIMAPORO, Imelda (Lakas)	30057
BACAREZA, Angelique (Kampi)	36207
ZARAGOZA, Leo (LP)	8581
BORJA, Uriel (Ind)	392
BELMONTE, Vicente (GO)	50970
Congressman (2nd district)	
(Namfrel as of 5:20 pm)	
DIMAPORO, Marcos	120
MANGOTARA, Abdullah	4849
DIMAPORO, Abdullah	23933

DAVAO

DAVAO DEL NORTE

(Namfrel as of May 16, 7:42 pm)	
Governor	
DEL ROSARIO, Rodolfo (Lakas)	84157
GEMENTIZA, Gelacio (UNO)	37795
GAVIOLA, Jesus (Ind)	19258
Congressman (1st district)	
ALVAREZ, Pantaleon (NPC)	39265
OLANO, Arrel (Lakas)	48054
Congressman (2nd district)	
LAGDAMEO, Antonio (Lakas)	40292
STA. ANA, Rolando (Kampi)	4750

DAVAO DEL SUR

Governor (Comelec as of 5.45, 655 precincts)	
BAUSTISTA, Claude (NPC)	36213
CAGAS, Douglas	48110
VILLAMOR, Rosemarie	119
Vice Governor (Comelec as of 5:45, 655 precincts)	
LATASA, Simplicio	45701
RENOVILLA, Ida	24151
Congressman (1st district)	
(Comelec as of 5:45, 654 precincts)	
CAGAS, March Douglas (Lakas)	46490
CARILLO, Dominador (Ind)	225
GARCIA, Romualdo (NPC)	21406
KING, Wilhelmina (Ind)	44
LLANOS, Nonilo (PDSP)	9814
VILLABER, Pablo (PMP)	27779
Congressman (2nd district)	
(Comelec as of 5:45, 160 precincts)	
BAUSTISTA, Franklin (NPC)	11454
CHIN, Jaime (Kampi)	5401

DAVAO ORIENTAL

(Namfrel as of 4.10 pm)	
Governor	
MALANYAON, Corazon (Kampi)	75929
PALMA GIL, Maria Elena (Lakas)	44598
Congressman (1st district)	
DAYANGHIRANG, Nelson (Kampi)	37277
INOB, Nelson (Ind)	
PALMA GIL, Maria Sophia (Lakas)	21434
Congressman (2nd district)	
ALMARIO, Thelma (Lakas)	27218
RABAT, Carlo Luis (LDP)	23863

COMPOSTELA VALLEY

(Namfrel as of May 16, 7 42 pm, 567 precincts)	
Governor	
CABALLERO, Kristine Mae (Kampi)	24625
UY, Arturo (Lakas)	54134
Congressman (1st district)	
BRILLANTES, Joselito (LP)	7148
TITO, Francisco	911
ZAMORA, Manuel (Lakas)	13874
Congressman (2nd district)	
AMATONG, Rommel (Lakas)	39125
CABALLERO, Jose (Kampi)	17182

SOCCSKSARGEN

NORTH COTABATO

(Namfrel as of 8 50, May 16, 1038 precincts)	
Governor	
BALE, Sammy (Ind)	46
MAKALILAY, Garcia (Ind)	74
ROLDAN, Rene (PDSP)	1481
SACDALAN, Jesus (Lakas)	59215
TALIÑO, Rogelio (Kampi)	52966
TANDUAL, Wahab (PDP-Laban)	5106
Vice Governor	
IPONG, Gregorio	65185
PINOL, Emmanuel	67561
Congressman (1st district)	
MENDOZA, Emmylou (Kampi)	27226
TAN, Luzviminda (Lakas)	16106
Congressman (2nd district)	
ANDOLANA, Gregorio (Lakas)	17187
GANA, Evaristo (NP)	24946
PIÑOL, Bernardo Jr. (Lakas)	26553
RINSUAT, Zaida	15403

CARAGA

AGUSAN DEL NORTE

Governor (Comelec as of 2:30 pm)	
AMANTE, Erlpe John (Kampi)	38834
PLAZA, Valentina (Lakas)	26879
Vice Governor (Comelec as of 2:30 pm)	
CORVERA, Enrico (Kampi)	34583
LIBARIOS, Arcedel (Lakas)	25122
Congressman (1st district) (Namfrel as of 12nn)	
AQUINO, Jose II (Lakas)	34295
CALO, Angelo (Ind)	14697
JIMENEZ, Angelo (Kampi)	30165
PLAZA, Charito (UNO)	14456
VILLACASTIN, Felix (Ind)	446
Congressman (2nd district) (Comelec as of 2:30 pm)	
AMANTE, Edelmiro (Kampi)	36587
LOMONSOD, Jorge (Ind)	716
PLAZA, Democrito Alberto III (Lakas)	21133
BUTUAN CITY	
Mayor (Namfrel as of 12nn)	
EMBOY, Teodoro (Ind)	434
MATBA, Ma. Angelica (Kampi)	45395
PASCUAL, Sergio (UNO)	4451
PLAZA, Democrito II (Lakas)	61301

SURIGAO DEL NORTE

(Namfrel as of 2 pm)	
Governor	
BARBERS, Robert Ace (Lakas)	77659
NAPULI, Felimon (Partido Padajon Surigao)	24074
ORDUINA, Danilo (Kampi)	31418
VILLAR, Simante (Ind)	171
Vice Governor	
CATRE, Noel (Lakas)	46960
CONGRESO, Lauris (Partido Padajon Surigao)	1223
ECLEO, Alan (NPC)	37952
NAVARRO, Rodolfo (Kampi)	23625
Congressman (1st district)	
MATUGAS, Francisco (Kampi)	14186
NAVARRO, Wenelisa (Ind)	4229
RAVELO, Marino (UNO)	88
TARUC, Dominador (Ind)	7763
Congressman (2nd district)	
ANDANAR, Wencelito (Kampi)	5224
BARBERS, Robert Lyndon (Lakas)	47897
LAGO, Pepito (UNO)	3641
PRESTON, Michael (Ind)	15
RAFOLS, Roldan (Ind)	30
ROMARATE, Guillermo Jr. (Partido Padajon Surigao)	54846
SURIGAO CITY	
Mayor	
CASURRA, Alfonso (Ind)	28360
MATUGAS, Ernesto (Partido Padajon Surigao)	27164

SURIGAO DEL SUR

(Namfrel as of 3pm, May 16, 701 precincts)	
Governor	
PIMENTEL, Vicente Jr. (Lakas)	66849
SALGADO, Elpidio (PMP)	2813
Congressman (2nd district)	
ALVIZO, Mano (Ind)	12980
ASIS, Alejandro (PDSP)	16644
FALCON, Jesnar (Kampi)	27565
GARAY, Florencio (UNO)	28301
RANIEN, Eleseo (Ind)	756

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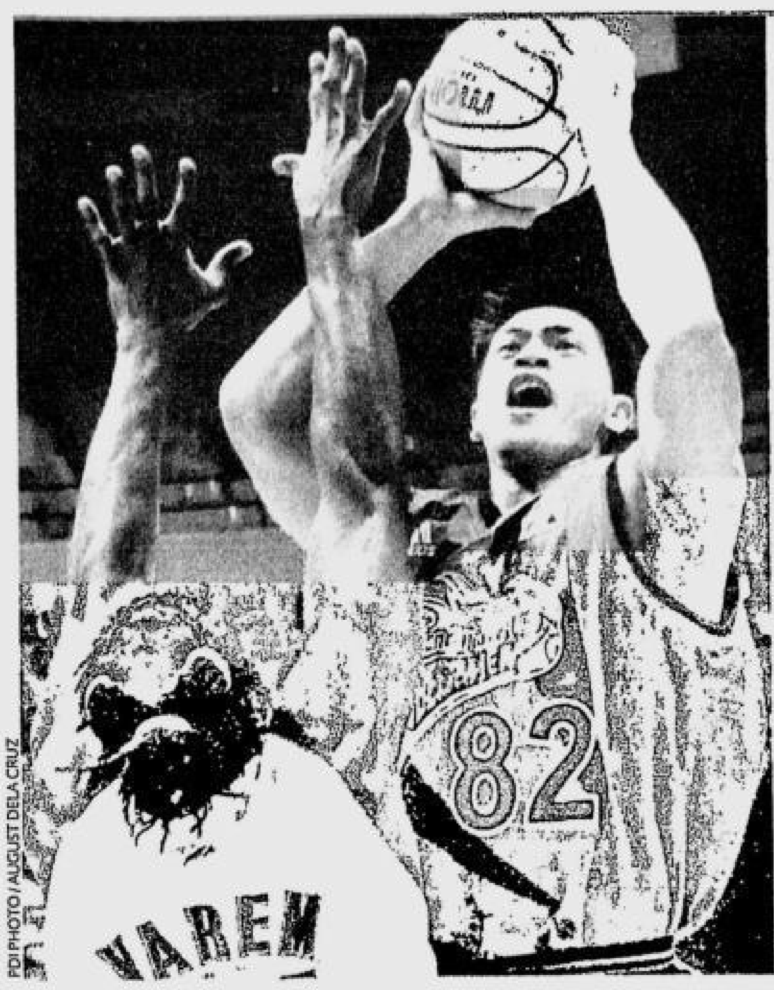
Late SPORTS


PDI PHOTO / AUGUST DELA CRUZ

SAN Miguel's Romel Adducul takes a shot off Jeff Varem of Coca-Cola last night. The Beermen pulled away for good in the last quarter.

Fiery Beermen collar Tigers for 6th straight

By June Navarro

WILLY WILSON FINALLY PLAYED THE hero's role as San Miguel Beer roared to its sixth straight victory with an 84-71 triumph over Coca-Cola last night in the Talk 'N Text-PBA Fiesta Cup at The Arena in San Juan.

Wilson tossed in a career-high 16 points on top of 13 rebounds to share double-double honors with Galen Young and Dorian Peña as the Beermen tied the longest streak in the tournament once held by Barangay Ginebra.

Peña matched Wilson's output while Young, who struggled in the first half, recovered to finish with 13 points and 13 rebounds for the Beermen, who notched their seventh win in 14 outings.

The Tigers, who got 18 points from John Arigo and four three-pointers from Will Antonio, failed to sustain a fiery start and dropped to 6-9.

Young and Peña buckled down to work with Wilson as the Beermen turned a slim 67-64 edge to a 10-point lead with two minutes to go.

Danny Ildefonso and rookie LA Tenorio also had their share of the limelight by tallying 13 and 12 points, respectively. Ildefonso kept the game close in the second quarter when the Tigers threatened to pull away.

It was Tenorio's three-pointer and drive that sparked the Beermen's surge in the opening minutes of the fourth period.

Young couldn't get an open look at the basket in the first half as the Tigers ganged up on him but Ildefonso took up the slack, rattling nine straight points to push the Beermen within 26-31 after falling behind by as many as 13 points in the early going.

Arigo's three-pointer provided some breathing room for the Tigers but Brandon Cablay twinner and Willy Wilson's free throws and a triple by Young put the Beermen on equal footing at halftime.

Ali Peek had seven points and Arigo six as the Tigers opened with a 19-6 spread in the first quarter.

Chris Calaguio and Tenorio buried three-pointers in succession as San Miguel Beer moved within striking distance, 14-21.

The scores:

SAN MIGUEL 84—Wilson 16, Pena 16, Young 13, Ildefonso 13, Tenorio 12, Racela 6, Calaguio 5, Adducul 2, Cablay 1.

COCA-COLA 71—Arigo 18, Antonio 14, Peek 12, Varem 8, Calimag 6, Cabagnot 6, Tolomia 3, Yeo 3, Avenido 1.

Quarters: 16-24, 34-34, 56-56, 84-71

STANDINGS	W	L
Ginebra	10	4
Air21	9	5
Alaska	9	5
Red Bull	9	5
Talk 'N Text	8	6
SM Beer	7	7
Sta. Lucia	5	9
Coca-Cola	6	9
Purefoods	5	10
Welcoat	3	11

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:35 p.m.—Welcoat vs Red Bull
7:20 p.m.—Alaska vs Purefoods

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Binay's ticket takes all 20 Makati posts

Rival camp alleges massive cheating

MAKATI'S winning team (from left): Abigail Binay, 2nd district representative, Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, Mayor Jejomar Binay and 1st district Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. RAFFY LERMA

By DJ Yap

MAKATI MAYOR JEJOMAR BINAY AND HIS entire ticket were proclaimed winners early yesterday.

Binay's team won all 20 elective posts in the country's financial capital, a victory considered as a repudiation by the city of the mayor's political foes, including those in the Arroyo government.

Shiela Rojas, election officer of Makati's second district and chair of the local board of canvassers, proclaimed the winners at about 6 a.m. despite a threat by Lakas Kampi Makati campaign manager Bong Ferrer that they would stop the proclamation on the basis of an electoral protest they filed with the Commission on Elections. Ferrer alleged there was massive vote-buying and cheating.

Binay beat his opponent in the mayoral race by an overwhelming margin. He received 198,814 votes while the administration's bet, Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid, got 22,462.

A third contender, Elias Dulalia, had 1,243 votes, based on the final canvass at the Makati Coliseum by the local Commission on Elections office of votes in the city's 1,834 precincts.

Message

"The message of Makati is clear. In a democracy, it is the people who will judge their leaders," Binay said. "Malacañang clearly misread the pulse of the people of Makati."

He added, "More importantly, we showed the entire Philippines that we are prepared to defend our city's freedom," alluding to attempts to oust him before the elections.

On May 4, Binay was served a suspension order on the basis of a complaint filed in the Office of the Ombudsman. A political rival, Oscar Ibay, accused him of keeping ghost employees. Two days before that, the Bureau of Internal Revenue froze the city's bank accounts in what it said was an effort to recover P1.1 billion in unpaid withholding taxes.

The moves were deferred until after the polls because of widespread criticism. The freeze order was imposed on only one bank.

Tally

Binay's running mate Ernesto Mercado captured 151,431 votes to win reelection as vice mayor. His main rival, Nemesio Yabut Jr., got only 48,456 votes. District 1 Rep. Teodoro "Teddyboy" Locsin Jr. was also reelected with 85,958 votes. His rival, former Councilor Oscar Ibay, got 17,489.

Binay's daughter, Mar-len Abigail Binay won in Makati's second congressional district over Erwin Genuino, son of Philippine Gaming and Amusement Corp. chair Efraim Genuino. Abigail got 70,904 votes, while Erwin took 41,191 votes.

Reelectionist councilor Jun-jun Binay, the mayor's son, was the topnotcher in District 1. Another Genuino son, Anthony, who was running in the same district, lost in the race.

Mandaluyong has new (old) people at helm

By Kristine L. Alave

BENJAMIN "BENHUR" ABALOS JR., INCUMbent Mandaluyong representative, regained his seat as city mayor yesterday, swapping posts with outgoing mayor Neptali Gonzales II, when the city Board of Canvassers (BOC) declared the pair winners in the May 14 polls.

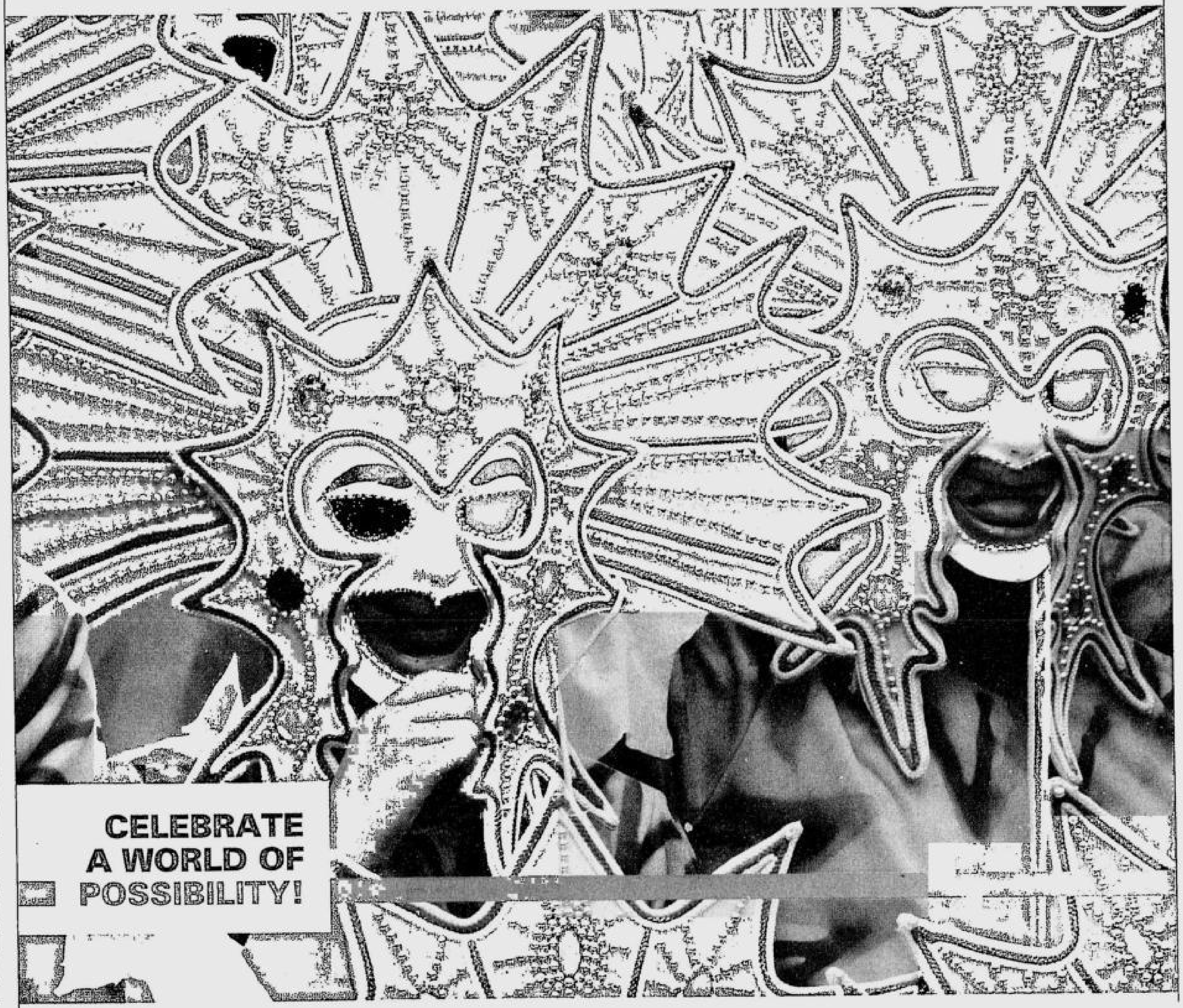
Gonzales was proclaimed representative for the lone district of Mandaluyong City with 88,306 votes, against Emelito Custodio who got 3,698 according to the final tally of the Commission on Elections.

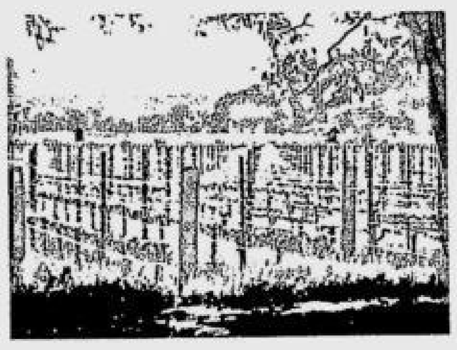
Abalos obtained 92,349 votes to win the mayoral seat against Florencio Solomon who got 1,778 votes and Camilo Alpuerto who got 1,433 votes.

Renato B. Sta. Maria, Abalos' running mate, won as vice mayor with 49,513 votes followed closely by Danilo L. de Guzman, of the Partido ng Masang Pilipino with 48,981 votes. Jack V. Ramel got 1,208 votes.

The canvassing finished around 11 p.m. Wednesday. The city BOC proclaimed the winners three hours later.

The BOCs in Marikina City and San Juan were expected to proclaim their incumbent mayors, Marides Fernando and Joseph Victor Ejercito, respectively, as winners late Thursday night. *With Restituto Matikas Santos*





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ELEKSYON 2007

Partial Comelec and Namfrel counts compiled by Metro Staff* as of May 17, Thursday

NCR

CALOOCAN CITY

437 precincts, Namfrel count as of 12:05 p.m.

Mayor	
ASISTIO, Luis (NPC)	20536
ASISTIO, Macario (Liping Kalookan)	2651
ECHIVERRI, Enrico (Lakas)	22713
MALONZO, Reynaldo (Kabaca)	6944
UDHAY, Danilo (Ind)	384
Vice-Mayor	
CAMAYO, Henry (Camayo)	13131
SARMIENTO, Cherry (Kabaca)	4394
VALERA, Luis Tito (Kampi)	31003

LAS PIÑAS CITY

1281 out of 1908 precincts, Comelec count as of 6:30 p.m.

Congressman (lone)	
BUENAFLOR, Nestor (Kampi/Ind)	1203
VILLAR, Cynthia (NP)	115127
ALUMBRES, Florentino (Kampi)	1885
Mayor	
ABELLAR, Antonio Jr. (Kampi)	1240
AGUILAR, Vergel (Ind)	121682
ROQUE, Benjamin (Ind)	378
TATLONGHARI, Jefferson (Ind)	800
Vice-Mayor	
DELA CRUZ, Berlin (NPC)	46970
GONZALES, Benjamin (PMP)	2494
IDANAN, Chito (Kampi)	848
MARTINEZ, Ferdinand (Kampi)	874
MEDINA, Henry (Lakas)	68190

MAKATI CITY

1834 precincts, Comelec final tally

Congressman (1st district)	
IBAY, Oscar (Kampi)	17489
LOCSIN, Tedoro Jr. (PDP-Laban)	winner
Congressman (2nd district)	
BINAY, Mar-len Abigail (UNO/PDP-Laban)	winner
GENUINO, Erwin (Lakas)	41191
Mayor	
BINAY, Jejomar (PDP-Laban/UNO)	winner
DULALIA, Elias (Ind)	1243
LAPID, Manuel (Lakas)	22462
Vice-Mayor	
MERCADO, Ernesto (PDP-Laban)	winner
YABUT, Nemesio Jr. (Lakas)	48456

MALABON-NAVOTAS

Congressman (lone)	
CINCO, Roberto (Ind)	141
FRANCISCO, Maritoni (PMP)	11782
LACSON-NOEL, Josephine Veronique (NPC)	22290
SANDOVAL, Alvin (LP)	22590

MALABON

500 out of 1,030 precincts, Comelec count as of 1 p.m.

Mayor	
ORETA, Canuto (Lakas)	39960
Vice-Mayor	
TORRES, Maricar (Lakas)	11603
VICENCIO, Arnold (PMP/NPC/UNO)	30005

NAVOTAS

144 out of 613 precincts, Comelec count as of 10 a.m.

Mayor	
TIANGCO, Tobias (Partido Navoteño)	10609
SANDOVAL, Ricky (Coalition of Administrative Political Party)	5205
Vice-Mayor	
JAVIER, Patrick Joseph (Partido Navoteño)	9078
BAUTISTA, Daniel (LP)	6157

MANDALUYONG CITY

1,334 precincts, Comelec final tally

Congressman (lone)	
CUSTODIO, Emelito (Ind)	3698
GONZALES, Neptali II (Lakas)	winner
Mayor	
ABALOS, Benhur (Lakas)	winner
ALPUERTO, Camilo (LP-Jack V. Ramel)	1433
SOLOMON, Florencio (Ind)	1778
Vice-Mayor	
DE GUZMAN, Danilo (PMP)	48981
RAMEL, Jack (LP-Jack V. Ramel)	1208
STA. MARIA, Renato (Lakas)	winner

MANILA

Congressman (1st district)	
40 out of 1041 precincts, Comelec count as of 7 p.m.	
ALFONSO-JUSON, Irma (Aksyon Demokratiko)	223
ASILO, Benjamin (PDP-Laban)	1760
DIONISIO, Ernesto (LP)	952
LOPEZ, Manuel Luis (NPC)	909
ISIDRO, Martin Jr. (LP)	805
Congressman (2nd district)	
118 out of 641 precincts, Comelec count as of 7 p.m.	
BUENAVENTURA, Ruben (LP/Ind)	4193
LOPEZ, Jaime (Lakas) ?	7081
TAN, Edward (LP)	2127
Congressman (3rd district)	
204 out of 718 precincts, Comelec count as of 7 p.m.	
ANGPIN, Maria Zenaida (NPC)	12889
CO, Alex (LP)	1462
FUGOSO, Ma. Asuncion (PDP-Laban)	6395
ROCES, Miles Andrew (LP)	
Congressman (4th district)	
161 out of 684 precincts, Comelec count as of 7 p.m.	
BACANI, Maria Aurora (LP)	2137
BAGATSING, Ramon Jr. (LP)	3211
BONOAN-DAVID, Ma. Theresa (Kampi)	4832
GAMEZ, Gerardo (Kapatiran)	819
Congressman (5th district)	
20 out of 1055 precincts, Comelec count as of 7 p.m.	
BAGATSING, Amado (Kampi)	3597
CUNA, Juan Miguel (LP)	3077
HIZON, Estrella (UNO/NP)	2346
SERRANO, Jose Ma. Jr. (LP/Ind.)	679
Congressman (6th district)	
80 out of 764 precincts, Comelec count as of 7 p.m.	
ABANTE, Bienvenido Jr. (Lakas)	4137
BALTAZAR, Arnold (Philippine Green Republican Party)	16
FERNANDEZ, Carlos (UNO/KKK Laban)	964
JALANDONI, Prudencio (Ind)	181
SISON, Casimiro (Aksyon Demokratiko)	2980
Mayor	
1698 out of 4093 precincts, Comelec count as of 7 p.m.	
ATIENZA, Arnold (LP)	63008
LACUNA, Danilo (PDP-Laban)	50005
LIM, Alfredo (UNO/KKK Laban)	96249
BACANI, Rodolfo (LP)	8700
JIMENEZ, Maria (Aksyon Demokratiko)	1694
Vice-Mayor	
ABAD, Onofre (Ind) BAGATSING, Don Ramon (LP)	56666
DOMAGOSO, Francisco Isko Moreno (PDP-Laban)	81722
HIZON, Joey (NP)	54811
BELGICA, Gregor (Ind)	6577
ORTEGA, Robert Jr. (Aksyon Demokratiko)	3565
ASTALS, Cita (Ind)	29876

MUNTINLUPA CITY

123 precincts, Comelec count as of 6:30 p.m.

Congressman	
BIAZON, Rozzano Rufino (LP)	8467
PUNO, Ricardo Jr. (NPC)	8805
Mayor	
FRESNEDI, Lorella (Lakas)	8690
MASANGKAY, Elizabeth (NPC)	1235
SAN Pedro, Aldrin (PMP/UNO)	7849
Vice-Mayor	
SIMUNDAC, Artemio (Lakas)	8183
CAYETANO, Rene Carl (Ind)	7097
MOLDEZ, Ricardo (NPC)	2054

PARAÑAQUE CITY

214 out of 1,219 precincts, Namfrel as of 6:30 p.m.

Congressman (1st district)	
FERRER, Walfrido (PDP-Laban)	2049
VARONA, Netz (Ind)	112
YABUT, Fortunato (Ind)	77
ZIALCITA, Eduardo (Lakas)	6478
Congressman (2nd district)	
ARROYO, Benjamin (UNO/Ind)	70
GOLEZ, Roilo (Ind)	919
NERY, Jose Sr. (Ind)	28
ROSAL, Pacifico (Ind)	18
ROXAS, Romeo	486
Mayor	
BERNABE, Florencio (Lakas)	6919
OLIVAREZ, Pablo (PMP/UNO)	5348
Vice-Mayor	
YLLANA, Andres Jose Jr. (Lakas)	5380
TAMBUNTING, Gustavio (Aksyon Demokratiko)	6620

PASAY CITY

717 out of 1,313 precincts, Namfrel as of 6:30 p.m.

Congressman (lone)	
CRISTOBAL, Jose (Ind)	268
ESPELETA, Saturnino (Ind)	428
PANALIGAN, Allan (Kampi)	24951
ROXAS, Jose Antonio (UNO/LDP)	26887
SANTOS, Ricardo (Lakas)	15994
YAP, Lorna (LP)	1592
Mayor	
DY, CONSUELO (Kampi)	34761
JOSEPH, Ralph (Ind)	102
MARCELO, Romulo Sr. (Ind)	131
NOEL-PENAFLOR, Francisco (Ind)	82
TRINIDAD, Neil (Ind)	29
TRINIDAD, Ramon (Ind)	153
TRINIDAD, Wenceslao (UNO/LDP)	38446
Vice-Mayor	
AGITO, Maximino (Ind)	159
ALCERA, Greg (LP)	11299
CALIXTO, Antonio (LDP)	40521
TOLENTINO, Arvin (Kampi)	18430

PASIG CITY

Namfrel as of 4 p.m.

Congressman	
BATACAN, Ermeraldo (Reporma/Lapiang Manggagawa)	949
CARIÑO, Noel (NPC)	11305
MELENDRES, Fernando (Ind)	1142
ROMULO, Roman (Kampi)	15585
SALATANDRE, Orlando Jr. (Ind)	1896
TATCO, Jose Jr. (LP)	6391
Mayor	
BELARMINO, Marcelino (KBL)	15
EUSEBIO, Roberto (NPC)	18651
FABELLA, Vicete (Ind)	55
JAWORSKI, Robert Jr. (Lakas)	19862
VIVAR, Alejandro Jr. (Ind)	77
Vice-Mayor	
LANOT, Henry II (LP)	6196
MARTIRES, Rosali (Kampi)	15439
RAMOS, Boccio (Lakas)	10648

QUEZON CITY

1,700 out of [illegible] precincts, Comelec count as of 6 p.m.

Congressman (1st district)	
ABESAMIS, Rommel (NPC)	6756
CRISOLOGO, Vincent (Lakas)	18523
PADILLA, Antonio (Kapatiran)	411
Congressman (2nd district)	
ABAN, Vicente Jr. (Ind)	84
BALOSA, Esmeraldo (Ind)	37
JIMENEZ, Walter (Ind)	77
LIBAN, Dante (LP)	8152
MATHAY, Ismael III (Kampi)	18890
NUEVA, Norma (AK Party Independent)	153
SIMON, Brigido (PMP)	5797
SUSANO, Mary Ann (Lakas)	24478
Congressman (3rd district)	
SORIANO, Lita (Ind)	171
CALDERON, Ramon (KBL)	522
CORRIOSO, Benjamin (LP)	121
DEFENSOR, Matias Jr. (Lakas)	10757
LOPE, Wendell (Independent Peoples Volunteer)	108
PUMAREN, Filomeno Jr. (Kapatiran)	1848
REMOTO, Danton (Ind)	1402
Congressman (4th district)	
DAZA, Nanette (Lakas)	17356
PALACIOS, Albert Hans (UNO/Ind)	2819
Mayor	
ACEBEDO, Romeo (Ind)	784
ALVAREZ, Florian (Ind)	773
ROSALES, Andy (Ind)	1001
BELMONTE, Feliciano Jr. (Lakas)	119784
Vice-Mayor	
BAUTISTA, Herbert (Lakas)	118582
BAUTISTA, Roberto (Ind)	1443
JOTA, Rolando (KBL)	793
UBSUM, Rogelio (Ind)	427

SAN JUAN

Comelec count as of 5 p.m.

Congressman (lone)	
ALCOVENDAZ, Ericson (Ind)	8589
ANDRADA, Manuel (Lakas/Kampi)	551
ZAMORA, Ronaldo (PMP)	9798
Mayor	
BENALLA, Juan (Ind)	169
EJERCITO, JV (PMP)	14795
ENRIQUEZ, Alexander (Kampi)	369
SINGSON, Engracio (Ind)	1021
Vice-Mayor	
ANGELES, Glenn (Ind)	6604
CELLES, Leonardo (PMP)	12104
SIBAL, Danilo (Kampi)	224
TAMAYO, Aniceto (Ind)	170

TAGUIG-PATEROS

Congressman (1st district)	
CAPCO, Jose Jr. (Ind)	6109
CAYETANO, Ma. Laarni (NP)	8216
CERAFICA, Arnel (Kilusang Diwa ng Taguig)	7338
FERNANDEZ, Corazon (Ind)	16
Congressman (2nd district)	
ALIT, Arturo (NPC)	796
DUEÑAS, Henry Jr. (KDT)	860
REYES, Angelito (Kampi)	784

TAGUIG

77 out of 1275 precincts, Comelec count as of 6:30 p.m.

Mayor	
MIRANDA, Marianito (NPC)	2642
TINGA, Sigfrido (KDT)	5465
Vice-Mayor	
ELIAS, George (KDT)	3858
LARAO-ALZONA, Ma. Loida (UNO)	4190

VALENZUELA CITY

210 out of 1267 precincts, Comelec count as of 10 p.m., May 16

Congressman (1st district)	
ESPIRITU, Danilo (Ind)	1302
GATCHALIAN, Rexlon (NPC)	12163
LOZADA, Edilberto (Lakas)	10298
Congressman (2nd district) GATCHALIAN, Weslie (NPC)	6183
GUNIGUNDO, Magtanggol (LP)	13695
TIQUIA, Carlitos (Kampi)	4370
Mayor	
CARLOS, Jose Emmanuel (Lakas)	24594
GATCHALIAN, Sherwin (NPC)	25381
Vice-Mayor	
ESPIRITU, Antonio (NPC)	24423
MARTINEZ, Eric (Lakas)	25498

INQUIRER METRO REPORTERS AND STAFF: KRISTINE ALAVE, JEANNETTE ANDRADE, JULIE AURELIO, NANCY CARVAJAL, ALLISON LOPEZ, MARGAUX ORTIZ, DJ YAP AND JUN VELOIRA WITH INQUIRER ELECTION 2007 VOLUNTEERS SHELLEY DIMACULANGAN, JONETTE MARIE MAÑOSA, ANGELA REBUENO, MARY ANN FRESCO, FRANCES MANGOSING, KATHERINE LIU, PENELOPE ENDOZO, VERITY CABIGAO, FAITH ALAYON, HERSHEY D. HOMOL, JENNY LYNNE G. AGUILAR, PATRICIA JULE T. HABAN, CAMILLE G. FALLORINA, JOHN EDISON T. FULGENCIO, REUBEN P. MERCADO, JESSICA HERMOSA, CHRISTIAN SANCHEZ, JOSEPH JOHN RAYMUNDO, RESTITUTO MATIKAS SANTOS, JACKY LYNNE OIGA, KIMBERLY TAN, PAOLO MONTECILLO, DELFIN FABRIGAS JR., GERVIC ESTELLA AND JEN PELIÑO

Atienza concedes to Lim in Manila mayoral race

By Allison W. Lopez and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THIS TIME, DAVID GAVE IN TO Goliath.

Humbly admitting defeat, Manila mayoral candidate Ali Atienza conceded to rival Sen. Alfredo Lim in a press conference yesterday afternoon at the Manila Diamond Hotel.

The 34-year-old Ali, who had referred to himself as a "David against two Goliaths" (Lim and Vice Mayor Danny Lacuna, also a mayoral bet), said he accepted the will of the people and congratulated Lim on his overwhelming victory. "I am thankful to all my supporters, especially the 200,000 voters who put their trust in me," he said in Filipino.

The son of outgoing mayor Lito Atienza said their own quick count showed that the senator and former Manila mayor won by 80,000 votes.

He shook hands with a beaming Lim while his father looked on.

Lim asked Ali the other day to accept his loss after Lacuna and another mayoral candidate, Rep. Rudy Bacani, acknowledged his victory on Tuesday.

The media were held in suspense yesterday after Lim joined the Atienzas in a closed-door meeting at 2:10 p.m. The surprise announcement was made 15 minutes later.

Three days earlier, Lim and his men searched the Atienza headquarters at Manileño Spa beside the Ninoy Aquino Stadium, where the central canvassing is being held.

Lim was looking for fake election returns (ERs) after receiving reports of cheating operations being cooked up in the spa. But the "raid" yielded only legitimate ERs. Ali assailed the senator's actions and said his lawyers were considering filing charges.

But everything seemed to have been forgiven and forgotten yesterday.

"*Yung mga salitang nabitawan, bale wala na iyun* (What I said earlier doesn't matter anymore)," Lim said. "I already told my lawyers not to pursue the case," added Ali.

The 77-year-old senator thanked his younger rival, whom he described as a "worthy opponent who will go a long way in politics."

"We have to accept the verdict of the people. I humbly accept the sportsmanship and magnanimity of Ali," Lim said, adding he would try to live up to the expectations of his constituents.

Lim also expressed gratitude to the elder Atienza, with whom he said he had an "enduring friendship." Atienza was Lim's vice mayor in 1992. The outgoing mayor said he would support Lim, saying the new mayor would be facing "gigantic" problems like poverty.

Atienza said he would focus on his "pro-life advocacy" with the Buhay party-list group, which he said was leading in the polls.

Ali, on the other hand, said he would attend to his computer shop and restaurant business. But Lim may have to wait until Sunday to be proclaimed winner. Only 16 percent of votes had been tallied as of 10:30 p.m. Wednesday. *With Delfin S. Fabrigas Jr.*

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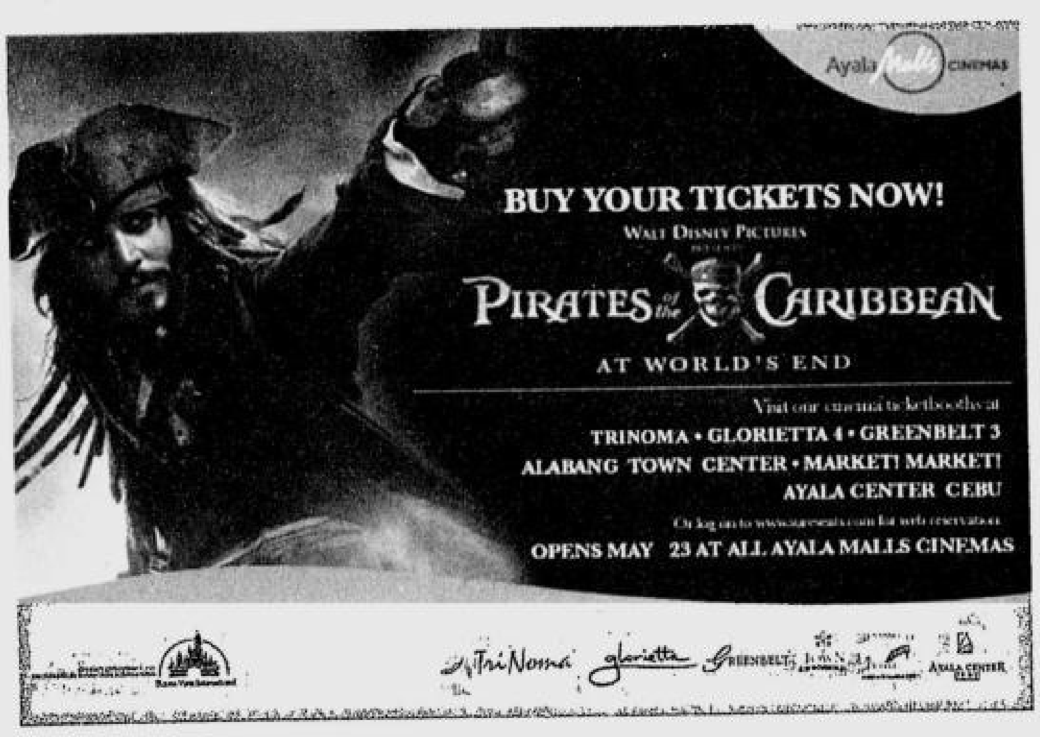
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Dodot cites 'anomalies' in ERs

By Kristine L. Alave

MAYORAL candidate Dodot Jaworski and Jam Tatco show election returns as evidence of fraud in Pasig City.
JOAN BONDOC

PASIG CITY MAYORAL CANDIDATE Robert "Dodot" Jaworski yesterday bared what he called anomalies in the electoral returns (ERs), proof, he said of systematic cheating in the area.

In a press conference, Jaworski and his party mates reiterated their call to the Board of Canvassers (BOC) to suspend the canvassing until the discrepancies in the ERs are cleared.

Noel "Toti" Cariño, who is running for a seat in the House of Representatives, said the group would ask the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to declare a failure of elections in the city.

Jaworski showed to the media copies of electoral returns and envelopes that he claimed showed discrepancies. His supporters also attested that there was vote-buying in several villages in the city.

Since Wednesday, lawyers of Jaworski have asked for a suspension of the count, citing incomplete inventories of ballot boxes, discrepancies in the number of registered voters in the envelopes and some "extra" ballots found in the boxes.

Yesterday, Ryan Jan Cruz, one of Jaworski's counsels, said the BOC should exclude some ERs from the count on grounds that these were done "under duress." BOC chair Ma. Anne Gonzales said Cruz should present evidence to support his petition within 24 hours.

She directed the canvass to proceed and the votes for local candidates be placed in a temporary tally sheet pending the BOC decision. Due to the slow process and arguments from the counsels of Jaworski and Eusebio, Gonzales said the canvass could last "five to seven days more."

Jaworski, meanwhile, blamed the leadership of his party for his difficulties in keeping tabs on his votes.

Lakas officials replaced him with Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando as the Pasig City party president, which should have entitled him to copies of ERs.

Without the ERs, he and his watchers would not be able to monitor the votes properly, he said.

"I felt betrayed. I am very disappointed. I learned from Day One that I would get the ERs," Jaworski explained.

Asked if this would prompt him to switch parties, Jaworski said: "I have no comment on that."

The former representative's closest rival, Councilor Robert "Bobby" Eusebio, is running under the banner of Kampi, President Macapagal-Arroyo's party.

Three days after the election, Pasig City remains the only city in the eastern part of the metropolis that has no clear winner in the close race.

Both camps claimed victory as the partial and unofficial Namfrel Quick Count in Pasig as of 9 a.m. yesterday showed Eusebio with 19,168 votes over Jaworski's 18,072.

The AMA Quick Count showed a different result, with Jaworski leading at 22,069 votes against Eusebio's 20,374.

About 1,000 Jaworski and Eusebio supporters gathered in front of the Pasig City Hall to celebrate their candidates' victory on Wednesday night.

Pasig City Supt. Romy Aninag said the police is keeping a close eye on the crowd to prevent fighting between supporters of the two camps.
With Joseph John Raymundo

Police blotter entry, report don't match

By Nancy C. Carvajal

IS THERE A COVER-UP IN THE works in a mauling and robbery case allegedly involving reelectionist Valenzuela City mayor Sherwin Gatchalian last Tuesday?

Rodolfo del Rosario, 41, of Del Rosario Street, Marulas, charged Gatchalian with robbery and grave threats at the Northern Police District (NPD) Investigation Unit headed by Insp. Romeo Onte.

But a May 15 report on the incident by the city's chief of police, Supt. Billy Beltran to NPD Director Chief Supt. Pedro Tango, did not include Gatchalian's name in the charge sheet.

Del Rosario accused Gatchalian of manhandling him and confiscating his video camera at around 3 p.m. Tuesday near a gas station. He reported the same allegations to the INQUIRER.

The victim said he and and friends saw a van filled with ballot boxes parked near a Petron station. The mayor and his bodyguards, on board a black Expedition, then showed up, he said.

Gatchalian confirmed the incident with the INQUIRER, but denied hitting the complainant intentionally.

"I just tried to prevent him from taking shots of me as I was approaching the van," Gatchalian said. The KIA van, with plate number UJX 920, belongs to the mayor's brother, Rexlon, a candidate for Congress.

Beltran, in his report, said the incident was a case of harassment of alleged supporters of an unnamed mayoral candidate. According to the report, the van's driver, Benjamin Pardales, claimed a group of men threatened him and forcibly opened the padlocked van.

The suspects, except for one Arvin Cruz who was brought in for questioning, escaped from responding policemen led by Chief Insp. Danilo Bugay.

Del Rosario belied Beltran's report, adding that they went to the NPD to report the incident. "We decided to go to the NPD because we thought we would get a fair treatment there," he said.

Russian Orthodox Church rivals heal 80-year schism

MOSCOW—CHURCH bells pealed in Moscow as leaders of the Russian Orthodox faith signed a pact on Thursday healing a historic schism between the church in Russia, which for decades cooperated with Soviet authorities, and an offshoot set up abroad after the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

After a choir sang sonorous hymns, Moscow Patriarch Alexy II, leader of the main Russian Orthodox Church, led the ceremony with a sermon praising the ending of the formal division.

SEALED WITH A KISS. Metropolitan Laurus, head of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia (left) and Patriarch Alexy II, leader of the main Russian Orthodox Church, kiss after signing a reunion agreement at Moscow's Christ the Savior Cathedral on May 17. AP

Later in the ceremony, also attended by leaders of church and state, Alexy formally signed the reunion agreement with Metropolitan Laurus, head of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin joined the somber celebrations, which were broadcast live on television. Alexy thanked Putin for helping end the split by meeting with leaders the church established abroad.

In remarks reflecting centuries of pre-Soviet tradition of a close relationship between the Orthodox church and Russia's rulers, Putin told the congregation that the agreement was "a nationwide event of a historical scale and a vast moral importance."

Worshippers and white-robed clergy thronged the Christ the Savior Cathedral, symbolic of Russia's rejection of its communist past, when atheism was state doctrine and many believers were arrested and imprisoned.

The ornate white building, with its shimmering gold domes on the Moscow River, is a replica built in the 1990s to replace the original, which was blown up in 1931 under orders of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

The church abroad split from the Moscow Patriarchate three years after the 1917 revolution and cut all ties in 1927, after the leader of the church in Russia, Patriarch Sergiy, declared loyalty to the Communist government.

The Russian Orthodox Church said that Sergiy hoped to save the church from annihilation, but the breakaway group regarded the decision as a betrayal—and saw itself as the true protector of the faith.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the two churches began discussions of reunification. The Moscow Patriarchate last year disavowed Sergiy's declaration, setting the stage for Thursday's reconciliation.

Laurus has said that the reunion pact signed Thursday—called the Canonical Communion Act—does not mark a merger, and that his branch would maintain administrative control over its 400-plus parishes worldwide.

The New York-based church reports 480,000 US members.

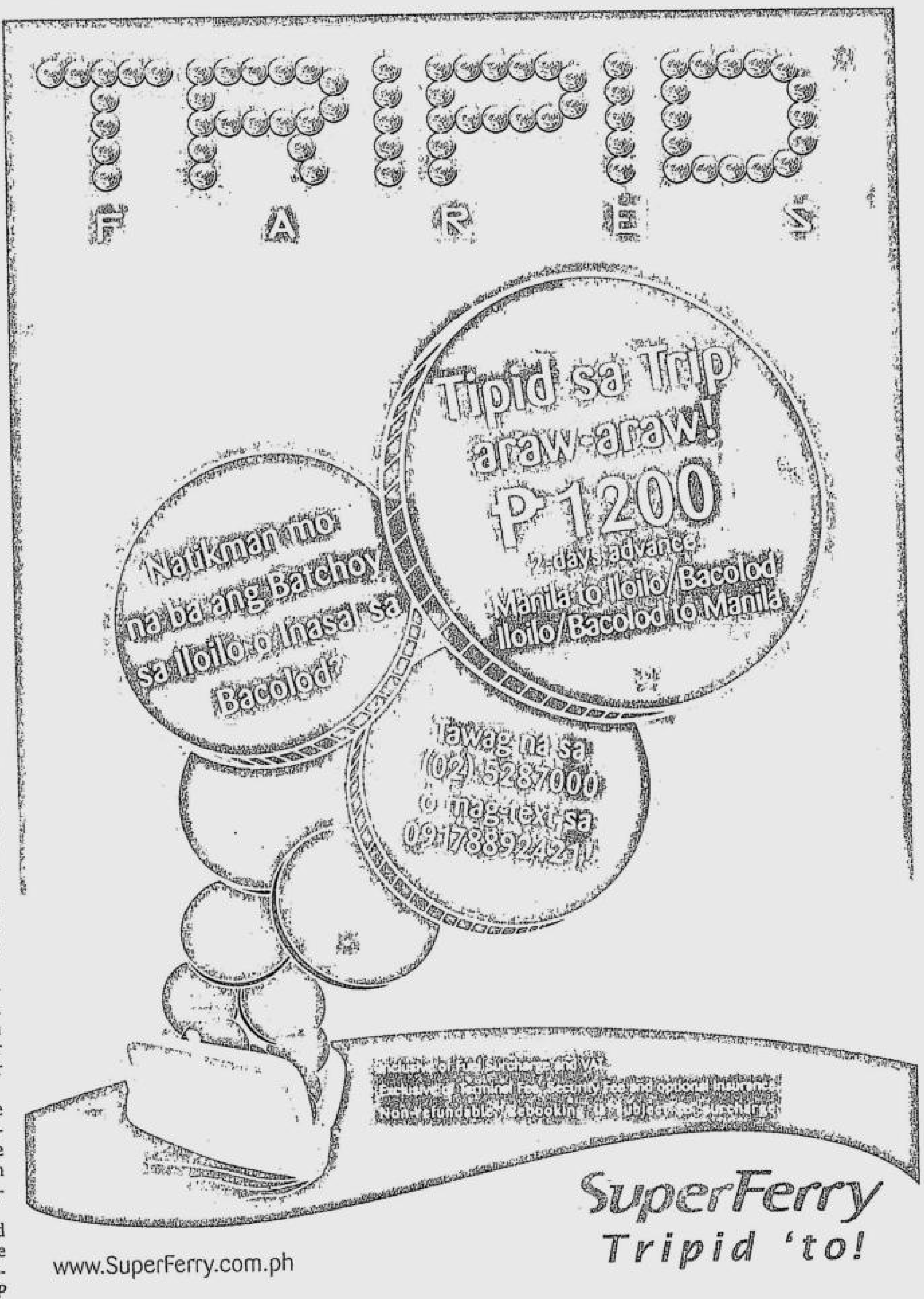
The Moscow Patriarchate, meanwhile, counts about two-thirds of Russia's population of 142 million as members. There are also, the church says, millions more believers in other former Soviet republics.

Under the pact, each church would maintain its own council of bishops. But their clergy would be able to lead services, and their parishioners to take communion in both churches.

"Cathedral prayer is more important than private prayer," Archbishop Mark of the church abroad told Russia's Channel One television Wednesday. "It's the center of our life, thus our communion will take place at all the levels of our church life."

For leaders of the faith, Thursday marked the real end of the Bolshevik revolution, which divided Russia's religious community along with the rest of society, said Andrei Zolotov, and expert on the church and chief editor of Russia Profile magazine.

It was "first time that a schism is being healed without saying one side was right and one side was wrong," Zolotov said, adding that the negotiations were difficult. *AP*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PER DTI-NCR Permit No. 1066 Series of 2007 Promo Period: March 15- May 31, 2007

Wolfowitz seeks graceful exit from WB

WASHINGTON—EMBATTLED WORLD BANK president Paul Wolfowitz sought a graceful exit from a scandal over his girlfriend's pay package as bank chiefs prepared for more talks on his fate on Thursday.

Wolfowitz, a longtime ally of US President George W. Bush, was reported to be willing to resign as long as the bank took some of the blame for its muddled advice on the controversial pay raise he negotiated for his female companion.

European countries have pushed hard for the former deputy defense secretary's departure from the 185-country bank and even White House support has weaned in recent days as the controversy deepened.

At issue is Wolfowitz's role in arranging a generous promotion and pay package for his companion and fellow bank employee, Shaha Riza, after he took the helm in 2005.

A scathing report released by an internal investigatory panel this week found that Wolfowitz violated bank rules in arranging the deal for Riza, but also said the bank gave him cloudy instructions on the matter.

A source close to the bank said on Wednesday that a deal being considered would have the bank recognize that it could have given him better guidance on avoiding a conflict-of-interest situation.

Wolfowitz's high-profile Washington lawyer, Robert Bennett, and World Bank officials were in teleconference negotiations that have reached a "critical" stage, CNBC television news reported.

"Mr. Wolfowitz will not resign under this cloud and he will rather put this matter to a full vote," Bennett said on Wednesday.

The Bush administration had been resolutely backing Wolfowitz—one of the key architects of the Iraq war—despite persistent calls for him to resign during the month-old scandal.

But that support began to crumble this week after an internal report found that Wolfowitz had breached the bank's ethics rules. *AFP*

Coalition to invest billions for climate control

A COALITION OF 16 OF THE world's biggest cities, five banks, one former president and companies and groups that modernize aging buildings on Wednesday pledged to invest billions of dollars to cut urban energy use and releases of greenhouse gases linked to global warming.

Under a plan developed through the William J. Clinton Foundation, participating banks would provide up to $1 billion each in loans that cities or private landlords would use to upgrade energy-hungry heating, cooling and lighting systems in older buildings.

The loans and interest would be paid back with savings accrued through reduced energy costs, organizers of the initiative said at a news conference in Manhattan. Typically, such upgrades can cut energy use and costs from 20 percent to 50 percent, they said.

Making more efficient use of energy is considered by many scientists to be the best starting point for addressing global warming, particularly because there is a potential immediate financial payoff along with the long-term environmental benefit.

At the news conference, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg said that investing in retrofitting existing buildings was vital because they will make up 85 percent of the buildings that will stand in New York City in 2030.

He said banks and corporations appeared to be grasping the importance of considering long-term environmental risks when making investments. "Major business and financial institutions increasingly understand that shrinking the world's carbon footprint is a pro-growth strategy, indeed the only pro-growth strategy for the long term," Bloomberg said. *NYT*

NORTH KOREAN train crew members stand by a train after their arrival from North's Kumgangsan station in Goseong, east of Seoul on May 17, near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) dividing North and South Korea. AFP

Trains cross Koreas border for first time since 1950

MUNSAN, SOUTH KOREA—The divided Koreas sent trains lumbering through their heavily armed border for the first time in more than half a century on Thursday, reaching another symbolic milestone in a reconciliation process often hindered by the North's nuclear weapons ambitions.

Firecrackers and white balloons filled the skies near the border as a five-car train started rolling north on a restored track on the west side of the peninsula. On the eastern side, a North Korean train crossed into the South on another reconnected rail line where it was greeted by children bearing flowers.

It was the first train crossing of the 4-km wide no man's land dividing the two sides since inter-Korean rail links were cut off early in the 1950-1953 Korean War.

The trial run was the latest symbol of a historic reconciliation that the longtime foes began pursuing with the first-ever summit of their leaders in 2000. That summit has led to a series of exchange projects, including the opening of cross-border roads that thousands of South Koreans cross each year as tourists, or to work in special enclaves in the North.

The detente has often stalled, mainly because of tensions over North Korea's nuclear programs.

Thursday's one-time test run came after repeated delays since the rail lines were linked in 2003.

"It is not simply a test run. It means reconnecting the severed bloodline of our people. It means that the heart of the Korean peninsula is beating again," Unification Minister Lee Jae-joung said at a ceremony at Munsan station, 12 km south of the Demilitarized Zone, before boarding the train.

The two Koreas "should not be derailed from the track or hesitate" in their moves toward unification, North Korean Senior Cabinet Councilor Kwon Ho Ung said.

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun watched the event live on television, hailing it as a "result of building trust consistently with patience," his office said.

South Korean soldiers in camouflage uniforms opened the barbed wire-topped gates to the DMZ on the western track to allow the South Korean train to pass through the zone that stretches across the entire 241-km width of the peninsula.

Not long after, the North Korean train arrived in the South with one railcar bearing a sign that read, "The car that great leader and comrade Kim Il-sung boarded in person on Aug. 9, 1968"—referring to the North's late founder and father of current leader Kim Jong-il.

The trains, each carrying 150 people from both sides, returned to their origin later Thursday. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

British Army won't send prince to Iraq

PRINCE Harry. AP

LONDON—Britain's Prince Harry will not be sent to Iraq as previously planned, the country's Army chief said on Wednesday, insisting concerns for his safety had forced the decision. The 22-year-old prince, third-in-line to the throne, was "very disappointed" by the announcement, a royal spokesperson said, but he added that he would not quit the Army. Gen. Sir Richard Dannatt acknowledged that Harry would not be pleased with the decision, but said the risk that he and fellow troops would be targeted was too great. "I have decided today that Prince Harry will not deploy as a troop commander with his squadron," he said in a statement, adding that his decision was "final." Harry is a second lieutenant in the elite Blues and Royals regiment of the Household Cavalry. *AFP*

Sarkozy names reform-minded prime minister

PARIS—France's new reform-minded prime minister, Francois Fillon, started his first day on the job on Thursday with a promise to implement President Nicolas Sarkozy's sweeping program for change and assure an "eminent place" for France in the world. Fillon was appointed to head a revamped, slimmed-down government—expected to be named Friday—to include political rivals and as many women as men. During a brief ceremony in which outgoing Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin handed over power to Fillon, the new head of government said he would carry forth the mission of Sarkozy, who took office on Wednesday. Fillon, 53, an efficient four-time minister with a lower profile than the president, has been a confidante of Sarkozy. *AP*

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Spurs shade Suns; Nets stay in hunt

/A31

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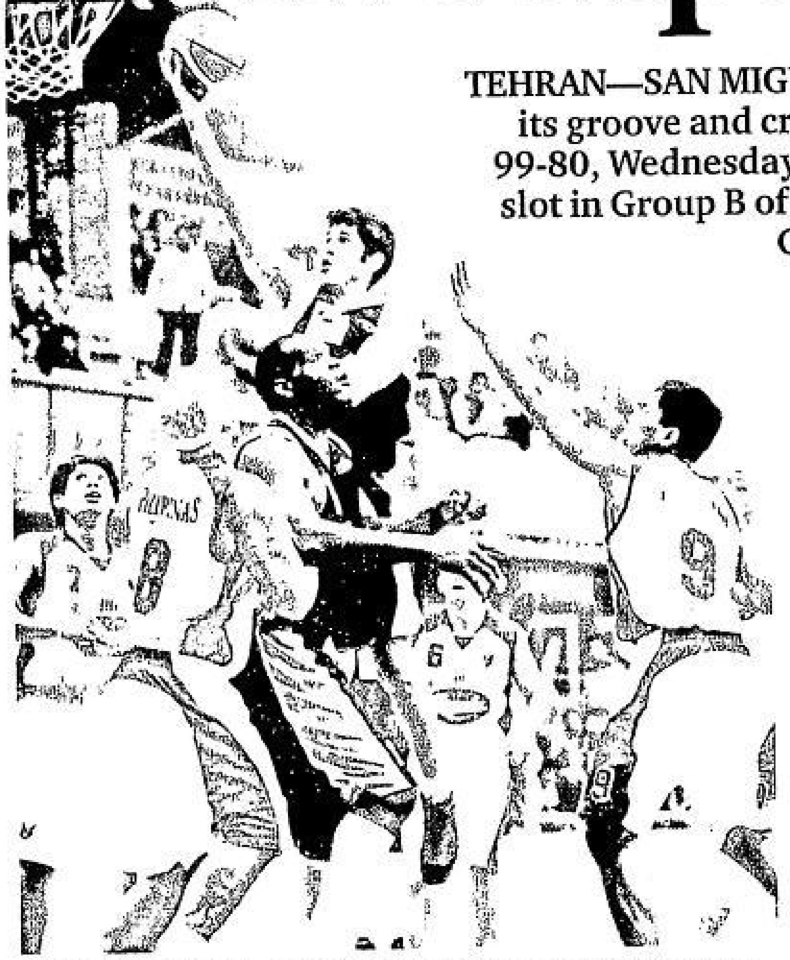
RP five rips Bahrain for first win



RP-SAN MIGUEL'S first five freezes as the well-oiled Iranian offense blows them off the court in their debut match. FIBA ASIA WEBSITE

TEHRAN—SAN MIGUEL-RP TEAM FINALLY FOUND its groove and crushed Bahrain's Al Muharrak, 99-80, Wednesday to clinch the last quarterfinal slot in Group B of the 18th Fiba Asia Champions Cup at the Azadi Stadium here.

Bucking a sprained right ankle, Danny Seigle scored 20 points, Asi Taulava added 18 and 14 rebounds and two more Nationals finished in double figures in a game they dominated from the get-go.

"This game is like letting out all our frustrations, you know?" said Seigle, his ankle, which was injured in Monday's loss to Kazakhstan's Astana Tigers, heavily wrapped after the game.

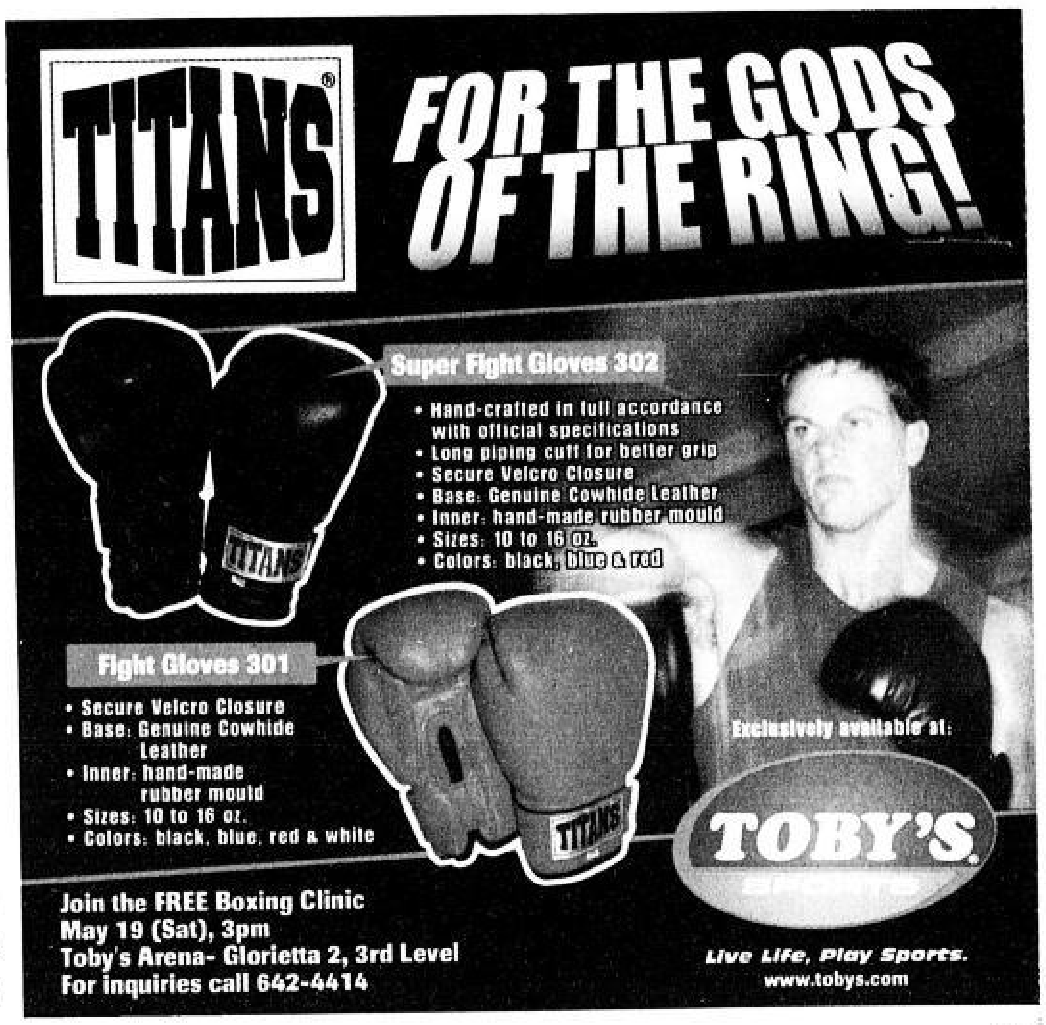
It was the first win in four games for the Nationals, who will now face Group A topnotcher Lebanon in the quarterfinals starting Friday.

Coach Chot Reyes attributed the Filipinos' success to the fact that they finally went up against an opponent that didn't have a dominant import like the seven-footers from Iran, Kazakhstan and Syria.

"They (the Bahrain imports) are quietly efficient and blue-collar workers, much like taller versions of (Alaska import) Rosell Ellis," Reyes said. "But our discrepancy in size is not that big and that's the only opening we needed."

Six-foot-seven A.M. Akintunde had 21 points and 12 rebounds for Bahrain but fellow African reinforcement, 6-10 S.B. Edeghe, could get only

RP FIVE/ A30



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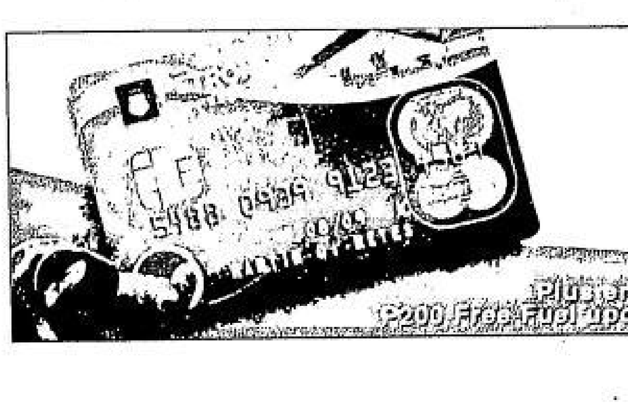

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INQUIRER PHOTO / RYAN LIM

BURGER King's Jerby del Rosario (left) and Cebuana's Eric dela Cuesta battle for possession.

Moneymen silence Whoppers, grab lead

By Jasmine W. Payo

UNHERALDED DON DULAY STRUCK HARDEST when it counted most as Cebuana Lhuillier-Pera Padala turned back Burger King, 95-84, yesterday and moved a win away from an outright semifinal stint in the PBL Unity Cup at the Olivarez College Sports Center..

Dulay, a 5-foot-10 guard, nailed back-to-back triples that sparked a 14-5 Moneymen run for an 88-77 spread heading into the final two minutes.

It was the fifth straight victory for the Moneymen, who grabbed the solo lead with an 8-2 card.

"(Don) Dulay made big plays down the stretch," said Moneymen coach Luigi Trillo.

Toyota Balintawak, with bruiser Erick Rodriguez unloading a game-high 26 poionts, clobbered San Miguel-Magnolia, 79-68.

Rodriguez buried all his three attempts from beyond the arc while adding 11 rebounds.

Patrick Cabahug also shone with 18 points for the Road Kings, who clinched their fifth victory in nine outings.

Coach Neil Vanguardia said the Road Kings have an even stronger chance of clinching one of two automatic semifinal berths with the return of Fil-Am Joe Devance. Devance, last year's MVP, arrived from the United States Wednesday and will suit up for the Road Kings tomorrow.

The Beverage Masters joined Dazz at 2-7 even as the Whoppers took their fifth straight loss after a 4-0 start.

GAMES TOMORROW
(*The Arena, San Juan*)
12 noon—Henkel Sista vs Harbour Centre
2 p.m.—San Miguel-Magnolia vs Burger King
4 p.m.—Dazz 'Sang Patak vs Toyota Balintawak

The scores:

First Game

TOYOTA BALINTAWAK 79—Rodriguez 26, Cabahug 18, Daa 15, Cruz 8, Coronel 5, Jaime 4, Guerrero 2, Cagoco 1, Coching 0, Alcaraz 0, Dedicatoria 0, Baluyot 0, Fajardo 0.

SAN MIGUEL-MAGNOLIA 68—Custodio 15, Jones 12, Magpayo 11, Chan 10, Barcellano 6, Evangelista 6, Villanueva 6, Natividad 2, Benitez 0, Raneses 0, Almeda 0, Angeles 0.

Quarters: 18, 19, 41-38, 59-53, 79-68

Second Game

CEBUANA LHUILLIER 95—Grijaldo 15, Dulay 12, Kramer 12, Escalona 11, Capus 11, Bono 10, Dela Cuesta 8, Sta. Maria 5, Dela Peña 5, Orela 4, Burtscher 2.

BURGER KING 84—Buenafe 14, Te 12, Quiñahan 11, Urbiztondo 11, Mendoza 10, Bravo 7, Viray 7, David 6, Ballesteros 6, Del Rosario 0, Saguindel 0, Aquinio 0, Garrido 0.

Quarters: 25-27, 43-45, 66-62, 95-84

Feliciano tops Padyak Pinoy flat prologue

By Musong R. Castillo

FREDERICK FELICIANO IS DONE DOING THE chasing.

A mountain specialist, Feliciano yesterday ruled the flat prologue that got the Tanduay Padyak Pinoy off the ground and will be a marked man in today's 190-kilometer stage to Cabanatuan from Quezon City.

FELICIANO

Using a new carbon fiber bike, Feliciano clocked a dizzying 3 minutes and 55 seconds for the 3.2-km individual time trial under a scorching sun around the Mall of Asia.

That was four seconds clear of former winner Victor Espiritu, who is making his comeback in the event at age 31, and 12 ticks ahead of defending champion Santy Barnachea, who finished fourth.

"This is a big win for me," Feliciano, who scored the sixth lap victory of his career, said in Filipino. "But we will never know what will happen until after (the) Baguio (stages)."

The Baguio sojourn was where Feliciano shot into contention last year after ruling the killer Baguio-to-Baguio lap.

But he still failed in his bid to wrest the lead from eventual winner Barnachea in the succeeding stages after using up all of his strength in the mountains.

Alvin Benosa, a member of the RP Team like Barnachea and Espiritu, was the surprise third placer after turning in a time of 4:02.

Arnel Quirimit, the champion when this event was revived in 2004, actually shared fourth spot with Barnachea.

Lloyd Reynante, the man whom practice buddy Espiritu said is the one to beat here, came next with a 4:09 clocking.

"We cannot really tell what will happen, there's still a long way to go," Espiritu, who won this event as a rookie in 1996, said in Filipino. "What I can say is that I think Lloyd is No. 1, he's in peak form."

The 31-year-old Barnachea, meanwhile, is keeping his cards close to his chest, reiterating that no lead is safe until after the Baguio stages.

"Whoever is the best-conditioned rider will win," Barnachea said in Filipino. "It's all about conditioning because this event will be decided when we climb the mountains."

Sherwin Cabrera was seventh at 4:09, Emelito Atilano eighth at 4:13 and Reynaldo Navarro and Joel Duenas led five others in ninth spot at 4:14.

Merculio Ramos, another returnee, was in 17th spot after timing 4:16 like Bernard Luzon, another big gun who is expected to figure prominently this year.

Today's stage will be over flat roads again, with the cyclists' main concern being the traffic in the busy streets of Bulacan, which Ericson Obosa exploited last year to win the opening stage.

VELLUM skipper Frederick Feliciano rides a new carbon fiber bike to a handsome victory in the time trial. PDI PHOTO/BOY CABRIDO

Mail & More riders show promise

EACH RIDER'S STRENGTH WAS MORE or less revealed in the prologue of the Tanduay Padyak Pinoy yesterday with Mail & More emerging as the quickest side after.. putting three of its riders in the Top 10.

Arnel Quirimit shared fourth spot with defending individual champion Santy Barnachea, while Reynaldo Navarro and Joel Duenas were ninth and 10th, respectively, after the 3.2-km lap around the Mall of Asia.

Quirimit clocked 4:07 in the first stage, which the veteran Frederick Feliciano ruled over former winner Victor Espiritu.

The team race officially starts today, when the entourage travels close to 200 km to Cabanatuan in Nueva Ecija from Quezon City. The top four times will make up a team's clocking for the lap.

Defending team champion Cossack Vodka struggled, with last year's top rookie Irish Valenzuela its best-placed rider in 12th spot.

The tour has put emphasis on team play this year, with the champion squad going home with P500,000 out of the total purse of P2.7 million at stake. There will only be one Team Time Trial, on Stage 5 in Laoag.

Overall Individual Results after Stage 1

1. F. Feliciano (Vellum), 3 minutes, 55 seconds
2. V. Espiritu (Wow Magic Sing), 3:59
3. A. Benosa (U-Freight), 4:02
4. S. Barnachea (Champion), 4:07
5. A. Quirimit (Mail & More), same time
6. L. Reynante, (AIR21), 4:09
7. S. Carrera, (Caltex), 4:09
8. E. Atilano (Cargohaus), 4:13
9. R. Navarro, (Mail & More), 4:14
10. J. Duenas, (Mail & More), same time
11. D. Hardin, (Caltex), 4:14
12. I. Valenzuela, (Cossack Vodka), same time
13. D. Cagas, (Bacchus), same time
14. J. Calderon, (Caltex), same time
15. E. Obosa, (Bacchus), same
16. R. Sambrano, (Cossack Vodka), 4:16
17. M. Ramos, (U-Freight), same time
18. H. Sicam, (Wow Magic Sing), same time
19. A. Baylon, (Bacchus), same time
20. B. Luzon, (Cool Pap), same time
21. M. David, (Vellum), same time
22. B. Lopez Jr., (AIR21), same time
23. O. Rendole, (Cool Pap), same time
24. JM. Guevarra, (Bacchus), 4:17
25. R. Hualda, (Wow Magic Sing), 4:18
26. R. Martin, (Vellum), same time
27. B. Ravina, (Cool Pap), 4:19
28. M. Reyes, (Cossack Vodka), same time
29. E. Quiñones, (Vellum), same time
30. J. Ricafort, (Wow Magic Sing), same time
31. H. Landra, (Vis-Min Team), same time
32. O. Villanueva, (Champion), 4:20
33. C. Joven, (Bacchus), same time
34. E. Domingo, (Champion), same time
35. R. Clauna, (Caltex), same time
36. H. Mangahis, (Cool Pap), same time
37. R. Burgos, (Vellum), same time
38. J. Mananguit, (Mail & More), 4:22
39. S. Salvador, (Cargohaus), same time
40. J. Pagnanawon, (Vis-Min Team Selection), same time
41. F. Alagano, (AIR21), same time
42. J. Tolentino, (Caltex), same time
43. J. Garillo, (Cargohaus), 4:25
44. Z. Mateo, (U-Freight), same time
45. R. Gutierrez, (U-Freight), 4:26
46. A. Asuncion, (Cargohaus), same time
47. M. Pili, (Mail & More), same time
48. J. Garcia, (Mail & More), same time
49. L.A. Del Rosario, (U-Freight), 4:27
50. N. Barbalose, (Vis-Min Team), same time
51. E. Cadampog, (Vis-Min Team), same time
52. E. Opilla, (U-Freight), 4:28
53. M.A. Tucay, (Cool Pap), same time
54. A. Calpito, (Bacchus), same time
55. L. Dimaano, (Cossack Vodka), same time
56. K. Guinoo, (Vellum), same time
57. J. Barantes, (Mail & More), 4:29
58. B. Stalin, (U-Freight), same time
59. L. Palor Jr., (Caltex), same time
60. N. Jasul, (Cossack Vodka), 4:31
61. C. Rodriguez, (Wow Magic Sing), same time
62. A. Ricafort, (Wow Magic Sing), same time
63. R. Acosta, (Vellum), same time
64. M. Catanggui Jr., (Vis-Min Team), same time
65. O. Fronda, (AIR21), same time
66. A. Basirgo, (Vis-Min Team), same time
67. D. Ganigan, (Bacchus), same time
68. A. Miranda, (AIR21), 4:32
69. J. Dias, (Champion), same time
70. S. Abaga, (Caltex), 4:33
71. P. Calosa, (Champion), 4:34
72. N. Ramos, (Bacchus), same time
73. M. Tualia, (Wow Magic Sing), 4:35
74. J. Salcedo, (Mail & More), same time
75. R. Pagala, (AIR21), 4:36
76. E. Camarino, (Cossack Vodka), same time
77. S. Diamsay, (Cargohaus), same time
78. G. Asiado, (Wow Magic Sing), 4:37
79. R. Torres, (Cossack Vodka), 4:37
80. L. Lingas Jr., (Cargohaus), 4:38
81. J. Guillen, (Cool Pap), same time
82. M. MC Q. Aleonar, (Vellum), same time
83. N. Guanzon, (U-Freight), 4:39
84. G. Apolinar, (Cool Pap), 4:40
85. E. Nardo, (Champion), 4:42
86. J. Bautista, (Champion), 4:45
87. J. Babagay, (Cargohaus), 4:49
88. N. Pablo, (Cargohaus), 4:51
89. F. Pablo, (Champion), 4:54
90. C. Nadyahan, (Caltex), same time
91. J. Duran, (AIR21), 4:56
92. R. Villaver, (Vis-Min Team), 5:03
93. JD. Abelo, (Cool Pap), 5:30
94. R. Carbonera, (Vis-Min Team), 5:42
95. E. Ballezer, (Cossack Vodka), 6:56
96. D. Leal, (AIR21), 20:22

Viray, Clavecilla set pace in RP Senior golf

ILOILO—ROLLY VIRAY SETTLED DOWN IN the backside with a one-over 35 and a round of 77 that lifted him into a tie with defending champion Iggy Clavecilla at the start yesterday of the Philippine Senior Amateur Open at the Iloilo Golf and Country Club here.

Viray dropped five strokes right in the first three holes and made the turn with a 42 but the Canlubang bet steadied himself coming home with a slew of pars against a lone bogey.

Clavecilla strung up nines of 39-38 to open his bid for a back-to-back title.

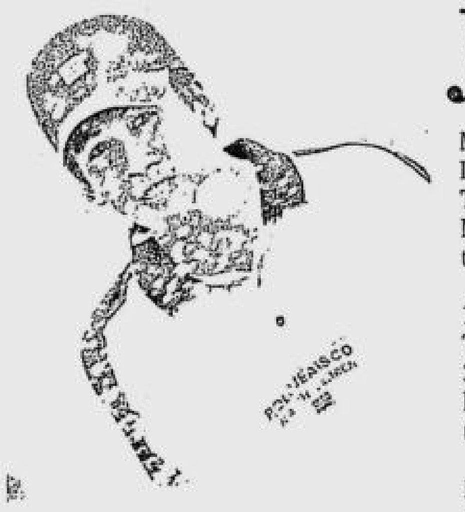
Francis Gaston, the former national amateur champion, bogeyed the last two holes for an 81 in the 54-hole tournament sponsored by Harbour Centre.

Bing Bunye stood a shot farther back at 82 with Lino Magpantay and Severino Roxas-Chua while Edwin Delicana made an 83.

In Category II (60-64), Mario Lugay shot an 86 to pace Bonifacio Sumbilla (87) by one stroke while Dennis Locsin had a 91 for third.

Carlos Maliberan fired an 83 to post a whopping nine-shot lead over Lirio Escano Jr., who had a 92, while Danilo Pizarro made a 93 for third in Category III (65-69).

Jun Galindez showed the way in Super Senior I (70-74) with a 92 as he took a five-shot lead over Richard Heideman, who had a 97, while Mars Arena paced Super Senior II (75 and above) with an 87 for a five-stroke lead over Severino Aguilar, who made a 92.



PAGUNSAN: Steady on nines of 34-34.

Juvic, Lascuña 4 down with 68s

MACAU—JUVIC PAGUNSAN AND TONY Lascuña shot identical three-under-par 68s Thursday to trail first-round leader Leigh McKechnie of Australia by four strokes at the Macau Open here.

The two Filipinos both bogeyed the 18th hole with Pagunsan, last year's Asian Tour Rookie of the Year, posting nines of 34-34, and Lascuña, the only Filipino to hurdle this year's Asian qualifying, submitting a 33-35 card.

Gerald Rosales matched par 71 at the Macau Golf and Country Club, Marlon Dizon fired a 72 and Jerome Delariarte carded a 73. Mars Pucay and Cookie La'O shot 75s while Artemio Murakami had a 77.

Frankie Miñoza and Angelo Que, the other Filipino regulars in the Tour, passed up the event.

The 33-year-old McKechnie, playing in his rookie season on the Asian Tour, fired seven birdies to be a stroke in front of Malaysia's Iain Steel, India's Gaurav Ghei, former Macau Open champion Jason Knutzon of the United States, Lu Wen-teh of Chinese Taipei and American Anthony Kang.

Chinese stalwart Zhang Lianwei, playing with new clubs this week in his search for a record third Macau victory, lay a further stroke back with a 66 along with five others in the $300,000 event, which is the 14th leg of this season's Asian Tour.

After spending 10 years plying his trade back home, McKechnie opted to try his luck in Asia in hopes of finding his pot of gold.

His opening round's fireworks in the 10th Macau Open in fair conditions has put him in position for a first major victory.

"I just enjoy playing tournaments rather than being back home playing smaller two-day events," said McKechnie, who is playing in only his fourth Asian Tour event.

Inquirer Sports Staff

RP five rips Bahrain for first win

From page A29

13 points against the defense anchored on Taulava and Rico Villanueva.

"I like going up against 7-footers," said the 6-9 Taulava, whose backup, the 6-6 Villanueva, is the shortest among the centers in this tournament. "But if they're a bit shorter it's still fine by me."

Thursday is a rest day for the tournament, but not for the Nationals who have squeezed in a tuneup game with Iran's national team that has a 7-5 center and two 6-11s.

Reyes said it is part of his team's buildup for next week's Seaba tournament and July's Fiba Asia Men's championship. "We may be meeting the same Iranian team in the Fiba Asia, so better to get a feel of them now," he said.

The Nationals must make do without Tony dela Cruz, who joined the growing list of the injured. He sprained his left ankle just seconds after being fielded in the first quarter.

"I stepped on somebody's foot and felt my ankle pop," said the 6-4 forward, who was initially diagnosed with a second-degree sprain.

Jimmy Alapag (left ankle) was used sparingly and Mick Pennisi (bruised left knee) was not fielded at all against Bahrain.

But Jayjay Helterbrand ably did most of the playmaking chores and Ranidel de Ocampo and Kerby Raymundo were foremost among those who helped patrol the lanes or provide help defense.

Ren-Ren Ritualo also added 18 points coming off the bench.

From a 43-38 lead, the Nationals unleashed an 18-4 bomb ignited by Ritualo's eight points for a 61-42 lead. Another burst starring Dondon Hontiveros gave RP the first of its three 21-point leads, 89-68, midway in the last quarter.

The scores:

SAN MIGUEL-RP 99—Seigle 20, Taulava 18, Ritualo 18, Caguioa 11, Hontiveros 9, De Ocampo 8, Alapag 8, Villanueva 4, Helterbrand 2, Raymundo 1, Dela Cruz 0.

BAHRAIN 80—Akintunde 21, Alderazi 19, Edeghe 13, Al Tawash 12, Mohamed 8, Ebrahim 5, Al Doy 2, M. Ali 0, Ali 0, Thaqafi 0.

Quarters: 20-17; 43-38; 79-62; 99-82

Roligon derby Round 2 today

THE SECOND ROUND OF THE 204-ENTRY "SUMmer Heat" 4-cock derby gets under way at 4 p.m. today with more than 100 fights on tap at Roligon Mega Cockpit. The Sundance group of sportsman Ronnie Puno dominated the opening round Wednesday night, as all his three entries posted two wins each for an impressive 6-0 win-loss) slate. Also with 2 points were Boogie dela Rosa, Ronnie Lacsina, Raul Ebeo, Neptali Castila, Terry Santos, Ricky Reyes, Ronald Navarro, Alex Magpantay, Jerome Jin Huan, Dionisio Ladimora, A. T. Carlos, among others.

PCCA Championship fires off

THE GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP OF PASAY COCKPIT Cockers Association (PCCA) 5-cock derby series blasts off at 6 p.m. today at Pasay City Cockpit with some 60 fights lined up. Sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. The PCCA Cocker of the Year for 2007 will be known tonight, according to pit managers Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano. After seven PCCA derbies, Tony Lasala (Red Eye SLB) leads the race with 23.5 points.

PSC fund good for 400 bets

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION IS prepared to spend for only 400 athletes to the Thailand Southeast Asian Games this December.

The figure, however, is far from the expected size of delegation being determined by the SEAG Task Force composed of PSC and Philippine Olympic Committee officials.

Under the Task Force guidelines, at least 651 athletes have already qualified for the SEAG. With the addition of coaches, technical personnel and other officials, the delegation could easily surpass 1,000.

PSC chair Butch Ramirez yesterday said the agency is wary that the delegation might get bloated and cost extra expenses for the commission which is also trying to raise money to fund the Olympic training program.

"If we allow them (the projected 1,000-plus delegation) to happen, where do we get the money?" asked PSC commissioner Richie Garcia, who co-chairs the six-game Task Force with POC official and wushu chief Julian Camacho.

Garcia noted that with a budget of P75,000 per person, a delegation of at least 1,000 delegates, including officials, would mean a P75 million bill for the agency.

The Task Force has been meeting with national sports associations since early this month to screen the athletes endorsed for the SEAG.

Insiders, however said the Task Force is not likely to allow the delegation to reach 1,300 which is the same number sent to the 2003 Vietnam SEAG.

Call Center tilt begins Sunday

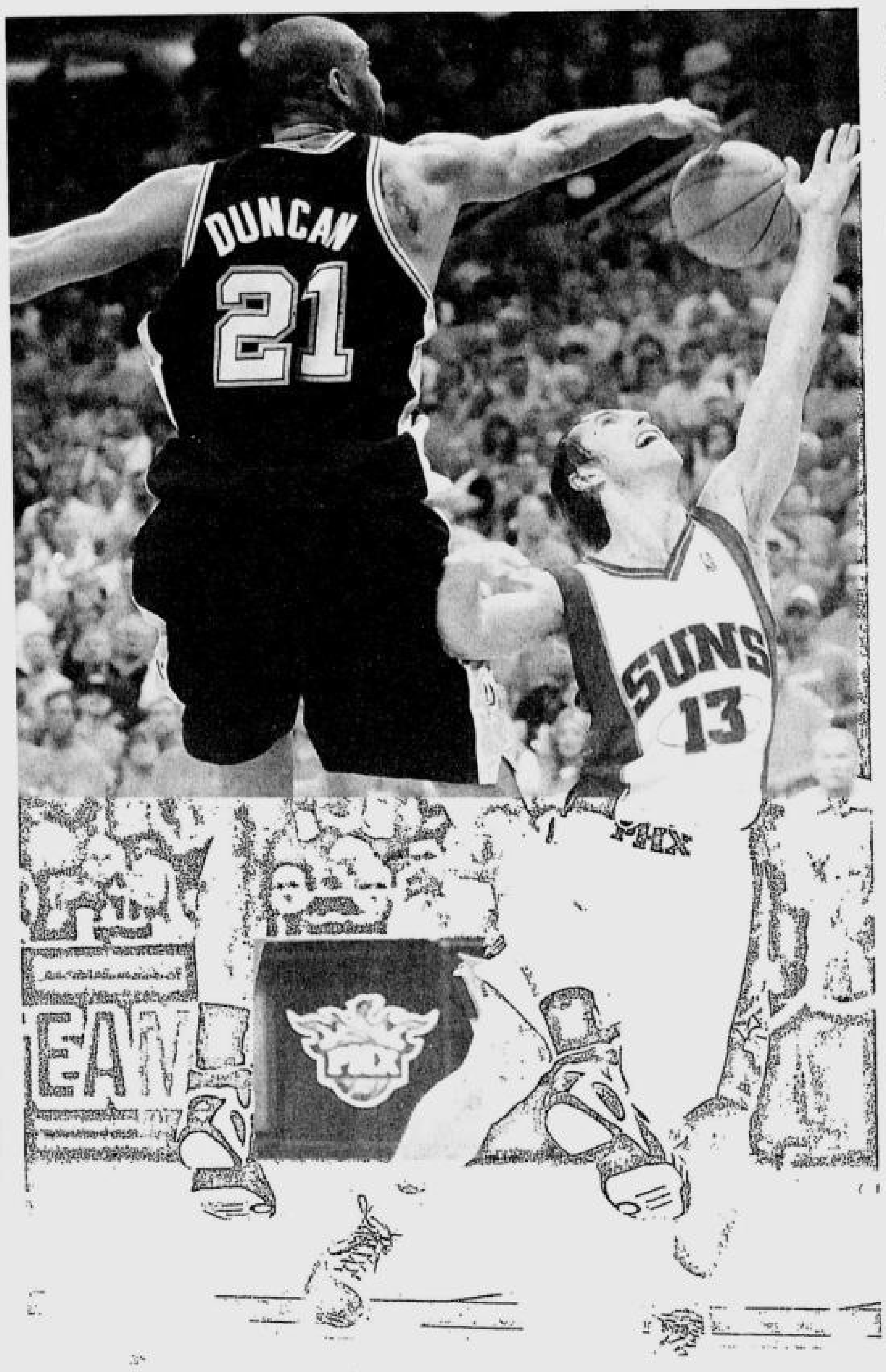
TWELVE OF THE COUNTRY'S TOP CALL centers, including defending champion TeleTech, vie for basketball supremacy as the 2007 MBT-Bayan Call Center League unfurls Sunday at the Metro gym in Mandaluyong.

Apart from TeleTech, also touted to dominate the event sponsored by Bayan Telecommunications is MBT Corporate League champion Air Relay.

Other participating teams are HSBC, Convergys, Sykes-Asia, NCO Group, Sitel, Branders, ICT, Epoxtar, Pacific Connexion and Alorica.

Commissioner Nilo Fernandez said the teams will be divided into two groups with the top four teams advancing to the crossover quarterfinal round.

Expected to grace the simple opening ceremony are Bayantel vice president for Corporate Business Market Chito Franco and A.J. Rosal, manager for marketing.



THE SPURS' Tim Duncan (left) blocks the shot of the Suns' Steve Nash in the fourth quarter of Game Five of the Western Conference Semifinals. AFP

Spurs shade Suns; Nets stay in hunt

PHOENIX—BRUCE BOWEN MADE A 3-POINTER with 36 seconds to play Wednesday, and the San Antonio Spurs beat the short-handed Phoenix Suns 88-85 to go up 3-2 in the Western Conference semifinals.

The Spurs can close it out in Game 6 Friday night at San Antonio.

The Suns, without their all-NBA center Amare Stoudemire and his replacement Boris Diaw, and using essentially a six-man rotation, nearly won a grind-it-out kind of game the Suns aren't supposed to be able to play.

They led by as many as 16 in the second quarter and were up 79-71 with 5:18 to play.

Manu Ginobili, who had an awful start, scored 15 of his 26 points in the final quarter to rally the Spurs, sinking two free throws to put San Antonio ahead 86-83 with 10.5 seconds to go. Steve Nash badly missed a 3-pointer against Tim Duncan's defense, then Michael Finley made two free throws with 5.5 seconds left to seal the win.

Stoudemire and Diaw were suspended for the game by the NBA for leaving the bench area following Robert Horry's flagrant foul on Nash with 18 seconds left in Game 4.

Horry got a two-game suspension. He also will miss Game 6.

At Cleveland, Jason Kidd scored 20 points and New Jersey somehow delayed an early summer vacation with an ugly victory over Cleveland to pull within 3-2 in their NBA playoffs series.

Doomed by an inability to execute down the stretch in this series, the Nets built a 22-point lead in the third quarter and then hung on for dear life to force a home Game 6 in their Eastern Conference semifinals on Friday.

New Jersey made one field goal and scored just six points in the fourth quarter on 1-of-15 shooting from the field. The Nets were also only 4-of-10 from the free throw line in the final 12 minutes.

Cleveland, which blew a chance to close out the series on its home floor, wasn't much better, shooting just 3-of-17 in the fourth. The Cavaliers played the last 56 seconds without LeBron James, who injured himself tumbling over Cleveland's bench while scrambling for a loose ball with Kidd.

James led the Cavaliers with 20 points and Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 16, but Larry Hughes gave Cleveland next to nothing, going 3-of-17 from the floor. *AP*

Enjoypool: Orcollo pips Bustamante

FILIPINO ACE DENNIS ORCOLLO downed countryman Francisco "Django" Bustamante, 11-7, yesterday to post his fourth straight victory in the 2007 Enjoypool.com (formerly Billiard Congress of America) 9-ball Championships at the Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The 28-year-old Orcollo, who avenged his defeat to eventual champion Bustamante in the semifinals of the Fil-9 Ball Open in Parañaque City, will next face Jose "Amang" Parica, who beat 2001 World Pool champion Mika Immonen of Finland, 11-10.

"I was lucky the balls went my way," said Orcollo, top player of Bugsy promotion, in Filipino.

At stake in the event is a total prize of $160,000 with the champion pocketing $15,000. The runner-up goes home with $9,000.

The winner of the Orcollo-Parica duel will next tangle with the winner of the match between Mike Davis of the United States and Shan Van Boening of Canada in the winner's side brackets.

Davis walloped Ronnie Wiseman of Canada, 11-6, while Boening stunned Satoshi Kawabata of Japan, 11-10.

Kawabata is the conqueror of Warren Kiamco, another Bugsy stalwart, 11-8, in the third round of the winner's brackets last Wednesday.

The 36-year-old Kiamco, who swept the 9-ball and 8-ball competition in this year's US Bar Table Championships, will face five-time world champion Johnny Archer of the United States, who beat compatriot Shawn Putnam, 11-5. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

ORCOLLO: Four straight wins

La Salle spikers share early lead with SSC, Lyceum

GAMES TUESDAY
(The Arena, San Juan)
1 p.m.—Letran vs Lyceum
3 p.m.—Far Eastern vs Adamson
5 p.m.—Santo Tomas vs La Salle

TOP FAVORITE LA SALLE leaned on the offensive prowess of Amy Guanco and Manilla Santos to trounce Far Eastern U, 25-16, 25-17, 25-21, and share the early lead with San Sebastian and Lyceum in the Shakey's V-League which got under way yesterday at The Arena in San Juan City.

Guanco, one of La Salle's two guest players, scored 11 points from 32 attacks while Santos added nine as the three-time champions dominated the FEU spikers in the first two sets before holding on in the third to complete the straight-set victory.

It was a rousing start for the Taft-based spikers bidding to extend their domination of the league. The Lady Archers ruled the last three stagings of the event sponsored by Shakey's Pizza and organized by Sports Vision Management Group Inc.

Earlier, former NCAA back-to-back champion San Sebastian and Lyceum fashioned out similar four-set victories to kick off their respective campaigns.

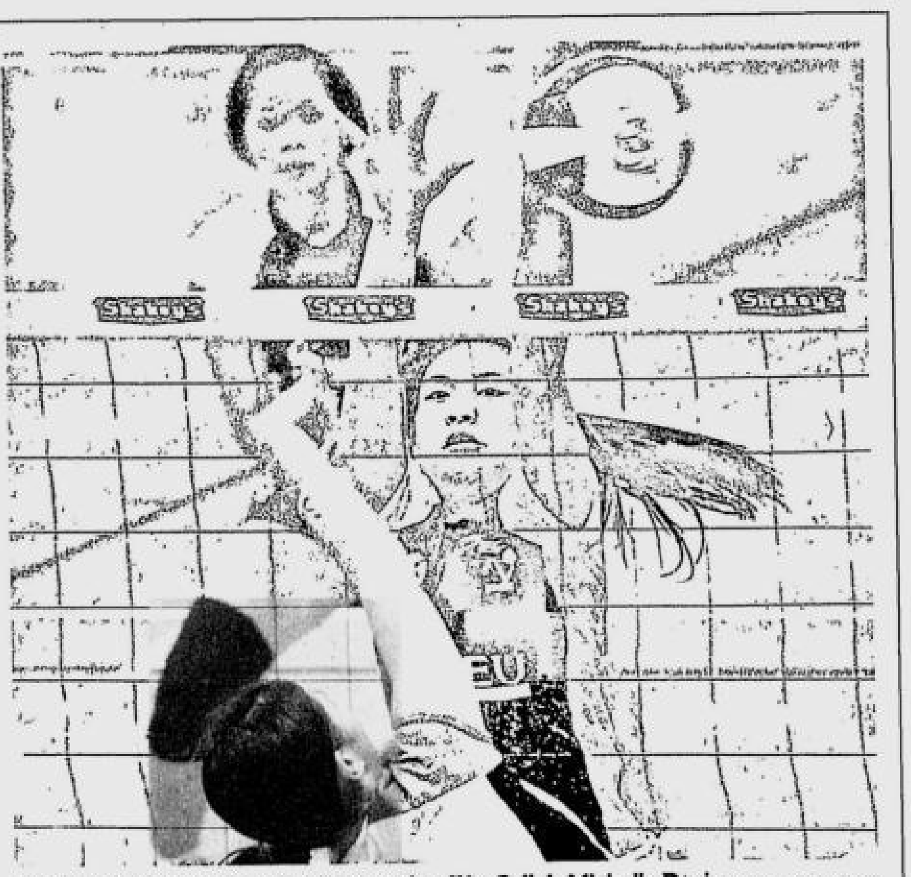
The SSC spikers, who reigned in the NCAA from 2005-06, put their act together after a shaky start with import Jaroensri Bualee and Laurence Ann Latigay and Rysabelle Devanadera combining to power the team to a 24-26, 25-16, 25-18, 25-15 victory over Letran.

Lyceum, behind guest player Josielyn Degorostiza and mainstay Sherrilyn Carrillo, subdued Ateneo in a game that was close throughout, hacking out a tough 28-26, 25-23, 22-25, 25-23 victory.

San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito welcomed the organizers, sponsors and participants at The Arena in simple rites where the league paid tribute to the late Sports Vision president and former PBA commissioner Emilio "Jun" Bernardino.

Others who graced the event were Bernardino's widow Mimi and children Vera, Kristine, Nolan and wife Marga, Shakey's president and CEO Leo Prieto Jr., Shakey's general manager Vic Gregorio, Shakey's consultant Chukri Prieto, and SVMGI officials, including chair Moying Martelino, vice president Ricky Palou, treasurer-director Elmer Yanga, director Rhea Navarro and tournament director Tony Boy Liao.

The opening ceremonies and the La Salle-FEU match will be telecast over NBN-4 at 2 p.m. today.



FEU'S Syvie Gay Cabanag spikes one in off La Salle's Michelle Dtuin. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

STANDINGS	W	L
Group A		
Jose Rizal U	4	0
Far Eastern	2	0
UE	2	0
San Beda	3	2
Perpetual	1	1
Ateneo	1	5
UP	0	2
Group B		
La Salle	2	1
National U	2	1
Letran	2-	3
PCU	2	4
Mapua	1	2
San Tomas	1	2

Bombers tackle Knights

JOSE RIZAL UNIVERSITY WILL TRY to keep its unblemished record when it tangles with Letran in the main game of the FilOil-Flying V Pre-Season Invitational Cup at the Arena in San Juan City.

The Heavy Bombers of JRU (4-0) are on top of standings in Group A and are already assured of a quarterfinal slot. The Letran Knights (2-3) are aiming to improve their record in Group B where they trail co-leaders De La Salle University and National University with identical 2-1 cards.

Far Eastern University (2-0) aims to boost its drive for a quarterfinal slot in Group A when it goes up against De La Salle University at 2 p.m.

The FEU Tamaraws are not yet assured of a slot in the event's second phase and will be hard-pressed to win against La Salle, which absorbed its first loss in three games at the hands of Jose Rizal University last Sunday.

Blue Eaglets dump Cubs, barge into Jr. NBA s'finals

ATENEO DE MANILA ENTERED THE SEMIFINALS OF THE JR. NBA-Philippines after beating San Beda Team B, 71-32, yesterday. The Blue Eaglets, who have yet to be challenged in the inaugural staging of the Jr. NBA, proved too much to handle for the Red Cubs. Ateneo posted a 3-0 record in the preliminaries before posting the 39-point shellacking of San Beda, the Eaglets' biggest margin of victory in the tournament. The Eaglets broke out of the gates to take an 18-8 first-quarter lead and never looked back. Hot-shooting Rafael Banal led Ateneo's attack with 15 points. On their way to the semis, Ateneo defeated UP Integrated School, 69-36, and Don Bosco Makati, 79-46, and won by default over Rizal High School.

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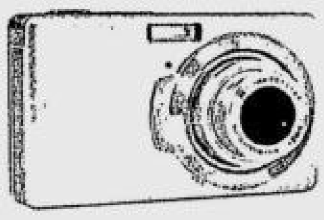

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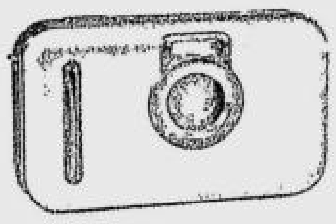

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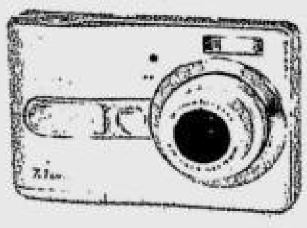

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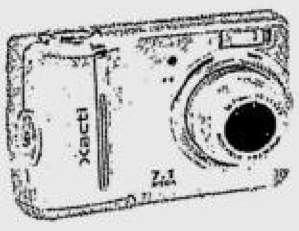

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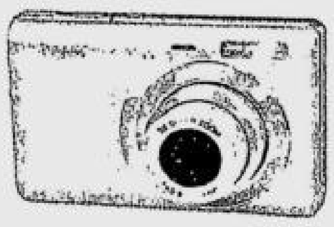

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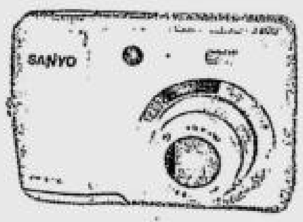

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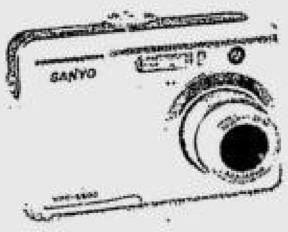

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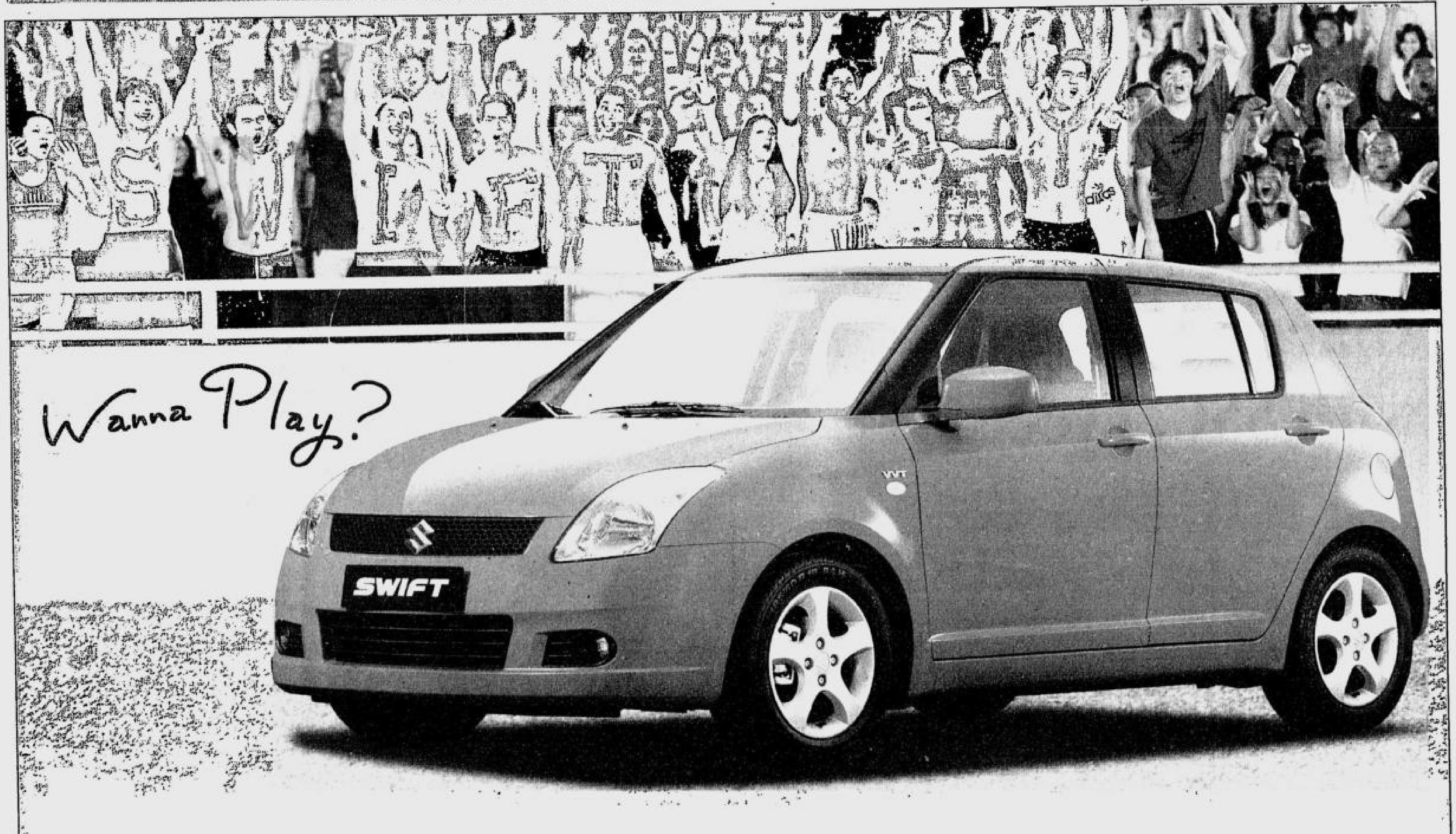

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■ **Lopez-owned power firm** eyes projects in SE Asia /B6

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Peso extends gains, marks new 6-year high

In April, hot money inflow doubled year-on-year

Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY CONtinued to gain, and even marked a new six-year high, when it closed at its intra-day record of 46.72 against the US dollar—21.5 centavos stronger than Wednesday's finish of 46.935:$1.

Also, the BSP yesterday announced that about $243 million in net foreign portfolio, or "hot money," flowed into the country in April. The amount was more than double the $101.9 million recorded in the same month last year.

The local currency first broke into the 46:$1 level when the financial markets resumed trading on Tuesday as investors cheered the mostly peaceful conduct of the May 14 elections.

Citing the latest report from foreign banks, which are major custodians of foreign investments, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco said that the hot money inflows in April, which was also higher than the March level of $173.21 million, brought the total net for the four-month period to nearly $1.1 billion—83 percent more than the $592 million in net inflows recorded in the same period last year.

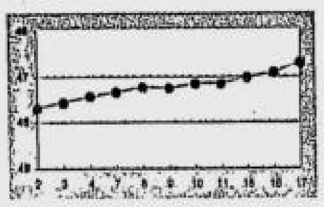
"Reports of solid 2006 earnings of several blue chip companies and positive macroeconomic developments further lifted investor sentiment during the month," Tetangco said.

He noted the investors welcomed the slowdown in the inflation rate to a 20-year low of 2.2 percent in March, while the peso broke into the 47:$1 level in the

PESO/B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 46.72 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 17, 2007

Shares close 0.2% higher

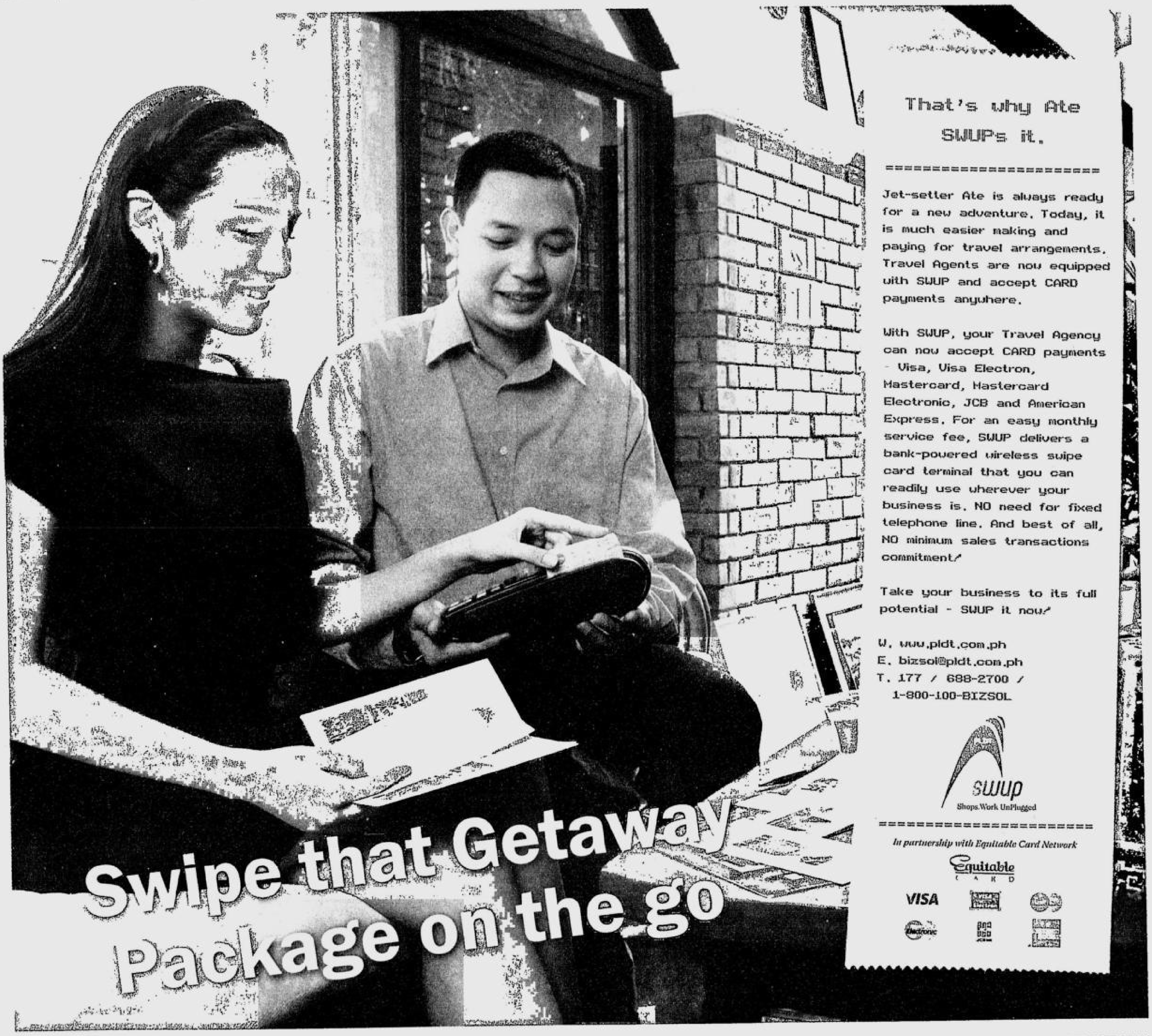
SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY ROSE 0.2 PERcent on gains in select blue-chips but, as on Wednesday, slipped off record highs as investors decided to take profits in late trade, dealers said.

They said investors were in a buying spree after the Dow Jones industrials posted another record close overnight.

The composite index added 8.49 points to 3,417.69.

It surged 1.2 percent during the day to 3,452.38, hitting a new all-time high for the second consecutive day.

SHARES/ B3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BIR coffers expanded by additional P5B in end-April

Gov't compromise programs seen to facilitate settlement of delinquent taxpayers' obligations

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE SAID it generated P5 billion in additional tax collection as of end-April from the implementation of its compromise programs for delinquent taxpayers.

The BIR said it earned P4 billion in incremental revenues from the implementation of the Abatement Program, which took effect last October, and another P1 billion from the Improved Voluntary Assessment Program (Ivap).

Under the Abatement Program, embodied in Revenue Regulation No. 15-2006, cases of tax delinquents, including those pending in court, will be pardoned as soon as the principal amounts of their tax liabilities have been settled. The BIR will waive the penalty for late payments, including interests and surcharges.

The Ivap allows taxpayers to be the last priority in the BIR's conduct of tax audit if they would meet the program's requirements, including paying taxes based on compromise rates.

Revenue authorities said there were instances when it would be more practical for the BIR to enter into a compromise rather than spend time, money and effort to prosecute tax evaders.

"We were able to generate more revenue with the implementation of these programs," BIR Assistant Commissioner Corazon C. Pangcog said. "There were some taxpayers, whose cases were already pending in courts, who ... simply applied for the compromise programs."

Pangcog yesterday talked to reporters during the launching of the BIR's National Program Support for Tax Administration Reform, which aims to improve efficiency in tax collection through various programs.

The Abatement Program and the Ivap are some of the measures intended to help the BIR shore up its revenue collection and overcome shortfalls recorded in the past. But although the BIR had generated additional revenues through its compromise offers, the amount collected were not enough to help the tax agency meet its first quarter target for 2007.

During the period, the BIR collected P143.1 billion worth of taxes, P12.1 billion short of the P155.2-billion target.

The BIR is tasked to collect P765 billion in taxes for the entire year, consistent with the government's goal of further trimming its budget deficit to only P63 billion from last year's P164.8 billion. The government hopes to post a balanced budget by next year.

Shangri-La, Trump to battle over Boni lot

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BASES CONVERSION AND Development Authority yesterday said Hong Kong-based Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts had proposed to build a six-star hotel on a 1.2-hectare lot at the Bonifacio Global City, the same property that American tycoon Donald Trump is eyeing.

In a statement, BCDA president and chief executive Narciso L. Abaya said officials of the Shangri-La group, the largest Asian-based deluxe hotel group, made a preliminary presentation to the BCDA board in a meeting last May 15.

Abaya said Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts vice president Greg Dogan expressed keen interest in the lot formerly known as the Government Center for Investment right beside the City Center of the Bonifacio Global City.

In an interview earlier this month, Abaya told the INQUIRER that BCDA was holding exploratory talks with the Trump group for a possible high-end project like a Trump Plaza.

But he said a stumbling block on the possible team-up with Trump was that BCDA, being a government agency, was not allowed to go into direct partnership with the private sector since projects must undergo competitive bidding.

Shangri-La's entry may have provided the answer as BCDA may conduct a bidding for the lot that both groups are interested in.

BCDA Chair Aloysius Santos said that Shangri-La's proposal had been made on a no-commitment basis and that the agency had made no decision on the matter.

"The BCDA board is mapping out an action plan for a transparent competitive selection process among the interested proponents," Santos said.

Also, Abaya had said the requirement for BCDA to bid out projects was holding back the

SHANGRI-LA/B5

Gov't open to selling NFC

By Amy R. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT is open to offers from the private sector to take over state-owned Northern Foods Corp. in Ilocos Norte.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap explained that while NFC's losses have been declining, it was still losing money.

Yap thus said it would be better for the government to get out of operating the company.

Established in October 1984, NFC is owned by the Livelihood Corporation, a government-owned and controlled corporation, and an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture.

NFC manufactures tomato paste and sources its raw materials from 3,000 Ilocano farmers with contract growing agreements with the company.

It supplies tomato paste to leading food chains, fish canners and tomato sauce/catsup manufacturers.

Located in Sarrat, Ilocos Norte, the plant can process 500 tons of tomatoes a day and produces an average of 4,500 metric tons of tomato paste every processing season.

Earlier, NFC had considered a $40-million loan either from the China National Agricultural Import Export Corp. or the Italian government to upgrade the plant and make its processing operations more efficient and profitable.

The loan was a substitute to a P400-million loan it had been waiting for from the Agricultural Credit Enhancement Fund (Acef).

The DA has been selling some of its assets to build up funds for other projects and department programs.

For instance, the Food Terminal Inc. at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City is up for sale.

Proceeds from the sale of the lone agro-industrial-commer-

GOV'T/B5

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Shares close 0.2% higher

From page B1

The close was just below the previous record of 3,447.60, set on Feb. 3, 1997. The broader all-share index rose 4.18 points to 2,182.37.

Decliners outnumbered gainers 53 to 44, with 62 unchanged.

A total of 2.66 billion shares worth P3.92 billion ($83.74 million) changed hands. *AFP*

Peso ...

From page B1

first two months of the year. At its closing rate yesterday, the local currency has gained by P2.31, or 4.7 percent, since the start of 2007.

The peso also found strong support from the large remittances of overseas Filipino workers who are out to beat the tuition deadline for the coming school year.

The country's merchandise exports, as well as OFW remittances, for the first two months of the year also posted year-on-year increases of 14.7 percent and 22.6 percent, respectively, contributing to the increase in the country's gross international reserves to US$24.7 billion at end-March.

On a gross basis, registered foreign portfolio investments in April totaled 931.76 million, 80 percent ($748.19 million) of which went to shares listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Placements in peso-denominated government securities accounted for the 20 percent balance ($183.57 million).

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Managed Fund - Peso	1.89393	1.88974
Growth Fund - Peso	1.84856	1.81451
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.3962	1.3921

* Note These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

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Equity Fund	1.677504	1.656193

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The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

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Please be advised that effective June 1, 2007, the Benchmark Rate to be used in the interest computation of the BDO Series 1 CDs shall be the Philippine Dealing System (PDS) Treasury Fixing or "PDST-F" 3-month benchmark rate as published on the Market Page of the PDEx System at approximately 11:16 a.m. on the relevant determination date instead of the 3-month benchmark rate as displayed on the "MART 1" page of Bloomberg.

This is in compliance with BSP Memorandum M-2007-006 re: Mark-to-Market Valuation of Debt and Equity Securities - Benchmark/Reference Prices. PDST-F is intended to support the repricing and mark-to-market of existing debt securities and contracts until their maturity.

The PDST-F 3-month benchmark rate is computed using the original methodology used by the Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP) and Money Market Association (MART) in the computation of the MART1 3-month benchmark rate.

Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corporation (PDEx) is the exclusive Calculating Agent for Benchmark Computation of Peso Government Bond Prices as appointed and confirmed by the BAP Board.

For any clarification or questions, please call your branch of account or the BDO Treasury Group at 702-6844 or 702-6845.

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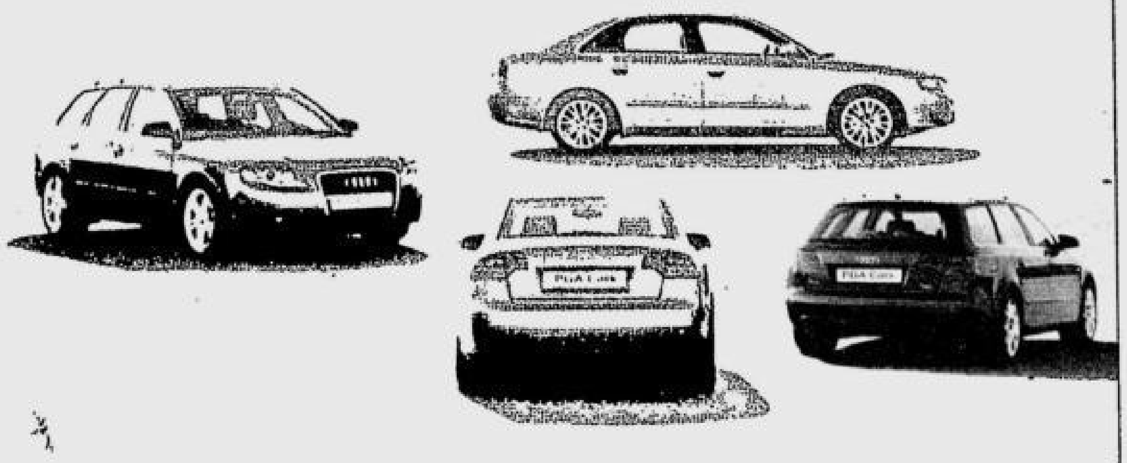

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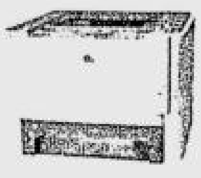

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Anscor buying into online hotel reservation firm

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

ANSCOR INTERNATIONAL INC., A WHOLLY owned subsidiary of holding firm A. Soriano Corp. (Anscor), has agreed to acquire 10 percent of online hotel reservation company Direct With Hotels Inc. (DWHI) for $500,000.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Anscor said its subsidiary entered into a share purchase agreement with DWHI, a company organized under the laws of Cayman Islands. It is engaged in online reservation for hotels and it focuses on launching, marketing and maximizing the performance of partner hotels' websites. Its target markets include small- and medium-sized hotel chains in Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America and North America.

Earlier, Anscor said it was making a large bet on the humming services and tourism sector as it invested $20 million (almost P1 billion) this year in healthcare, nursing education and a new system for hotel reservations.

Anscor chair and president Andres Soriano III said proceeds from the sale of Anscor's stakes in International Container Terminal Inc. and SPI Technologies would be used to finance the investment project.

Net proceeds from the sale of Anscor's stake in ICTSI to the Razon Group was P5.87 billion, while the sale of SPI to e-PLDT generated some P640 million.

"In 2006, Philippine economic growth remained resilient at 5.4 percent, driven by the services sector's robust performance on the back of continued demand for information technology-enabled call centers, medical transcription and software development, double digit export growth and record high remittances from overseas Filipino workers," Soriano told stockholders.

He said that to capitalize on this growth momentum, Philippine businesses must build a stronger base of human talent and offer education and training to enhance the competitiveness of the country's industries.

In line with this, Soriano said Anscor was planning to buy a majority stake in a hospital and a nursing school based in the Visayas to ensure that its manpower services unit, International Quality Manpower Services Inc. (IQ-MAN), would have access to qualified nurses for careers in the United States.

Foreign groups to hold job fair

FIVE FOREIGN BUSINESS CHAMBERS ARE holding a job fair in June in an effort to help address unemployment in the country.

In a briefing yesterday, officials of the foreign chambers said they wanted to be seen as having a major role in addressing some of the country's key issues.

The groups are composed of British, Australia-New Zealand, American, Canadian and European chambers of commerce of the Philippines.

ECCP executive vice president Henry Schumacher said the event, dubbed "Foreign Chambers' Global Employment Expo," which would be held at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City from June 4 to 5, would be open to fresh graduates and job changers who want to work here or abroad.

"Together, we have a total of about 2,000 member-companies with a total of about a million employees," Schumacher said.

He did not say how many jobs needed to be filled, but Schumacher mentioned that the total number of workers of the five foreign chambers "may go up to 1.2 million."

"We want to help promote not only the business and knowledge process outsourcing industries, but also medical tourism, retirement and hospitality sectors, and creative industries," he said. "All efforts on investment promotion would not make sense without complementary initiatives on human capacity-building."

Robert Sears, executive director of Amcham, added that the groups were also advocating efforts toward the improvement of English language skills among the labor force.

"This is most obvious in the BPO sector, where the rejection rate has become higher," Sears said. "That is because the cream of the crop is already taken." *Ronnel W. Domingo*

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NISSAN

Grouping support services

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF news lately on the Department of Agriculture's (DA's) projects to increase agricultural supply chain efficiency.

We commend DA Secretary Arthur Yap for prioritizing this, for an efficient supply chain can cut consumer food prices and increase farmer incomes.

In 2005, I led a team of supply chain experts to produce a three-volume, 1,200-page report of the Philippine supply chain, which was supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the National Economic Development Authority (Neda).

The report has been condensed into a publication entitled "From Seed to Shelf: A Logistical Evaluation of Philippine Agriculture."

One of the main recommendations was to use the cluster approach in rice production.

According to Dr. Caesar Quicoy, this entails grouping rice farmers into clusters using economies of scale in production technology, purchasing inputs and marketing their produce.

Nueva Ecija success

Four days ago, we received a report from DA Rice Program Coordinator, Francisco Malabanan, on the implementation of this clustering approach in Brgy. Mabini, Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija.

Using the hybrid rice technology, fifty-two farmers covering more than 200 hectares clustered together last Dec. 13, 2005 and formed the Bagong Buhay Multipurpose Cooperative.

Their results from the dry cropping season that ended just last month have been impressive. They harvested an average yield of 180 cavans (or 10.1 tons) per hectare.

High yields

The table here shows the production of Felino Garcia Jr., who got the highest yield and Candido Leongson, who got the lowest *(See table below)*.

It should be noted that even the farmer with the lowest yield received a net income of P54,351, almost triple the average P20,000 a farmer gets from growing ordinary rice outside a cluster.

DA's Emerson Yago says: "With farmers forming clusters of at least 100 hectares, they get consolidated and coordinated assistance from one another and from the government. The DA provides them with adequate irrigation, post harvest facilities, farm to market roads, credit, and marketing assistance."

Malabanan adds: "The main advantage of the clustering approach is the convergence of all the production support services to the farmers. This contributed to the attainment of enhancing productivity by the farmers and ensuring profitability, which is the main objective of Secretary Yap's programs."

Spreading the success

Last May 16, Centro Saka executive director Omy Royandoyan, one of the supply chain study's advisers, met with Alyansa Agrikultura leaders.

He suggested that DA likewise implement the cluster approach for organic rice farming, specially in those areas where the land has lost much of its fertility from chemical fertilizer overuse.

Another recommendation is that this cluster approach be immediately implemented in land reform areas.

Agrarian reform has largely failed because the support services formerly given by land owners were withdrawn, with no substitute services provided by government.

However, there are many studies (including one done by former Economic Planning Secretary Cielito Habito) that show both agricultural development and increased farmer income when the government provided the support services.

Because of the cluster approach's success with its economies of scale orientation, it is imperative that this be implemented for agrarian reform beneficiaries.

This may reverse the thinking of many that agrarian reform is doomed to fail.

This is specially important for the newly elected Congress, which will soon decide whether to terminate the land reform program.

Conclusion

In the Nueva Ecija experience described here, Secretary Yap and his team showed admirable resolve in addressing the agricultural supply chain problems.

It is hoped that DA now implements another key recommendation in the supply chain study, which was jointly formulated by the supply chain experts and selected DA Directors.

This is to include farmer and fisherfolk leaders in the current supply chain task force.

This way, the benefits from the cluster approach and other DA supply chain initiatives can be maximized.

(The author is Agriwatch chair; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax (02) 8522112)

RICE CLUSTER RESULTS (per hectare)

	HIGHEST (Felino B. Garcia, Jr.)	LOWEST (Candido Leongson)
YIELD:	246 cav/ha	173 cav/ha
GROSS INCOME:	P141,893.00	P99,726.00
COST OF PRODUCTION		
I- Chicken Manure (25 bags P 40)	P 1,000.00	P1,000.00
II- Seeds (20kgs x P90)	P 1,800.00	P1,800.00
III- Land Preparation	P 3,500.00	P 3,500.00
IV- Pulling of Seedlings	P 1,500.00	P 1,500.00
V- Transplanting	P 3,500.00	P 3,500.00
VI- Herbicide and Fertilizer	P 9,250.00	P 9,250.00
VII- Harvesting and Threshing	P13,000.00	P12,000.00
VIII- Sack and Twine	P 1,506.00	P1,068.00
IX- Hauling	P 2,214.00	P1,557.00
X- Labor	P 7,200.00	P 7,200.00
TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION:	**P44,470.00**	**P42,375.00**
NET INCOME:	P97,423.00	P57,351.00

Shangri-La ...

From page B2

agency from signing a deal with the Shanghai Shimao group for a $2-billion project.

He was referring to a partnership with one of China's top real estate developers, the way to which had been paved with a memorandum of understanding signed in March.

The MOU followed a recent visit of Shimao group chair Hui Wing Mau, who had expressed interest in investing between $2 billion and $4 billion in high-end hotel and mixed-use buildings in the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig City.

According to the BCDA, the MOU provided for the conduct of detailed studies on future joint development projects with BCDA, which would make the Bonifacio Global City a key international business district.

The deal proper was supposed to have been signed during President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to China last month.

Gov't open ...

From page B2

cial estate in Metro Manila would be invested in regional processing and consolidation centers, which would be put in North Mindanao, Southern Mindanao, Western Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Northern Luzon and Central Luzon.

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NISSAN

Lopez-owned power firm eyes projects in SE Asia

First Gen getting offers for partnership deals

By Abigail L. Ho

APART FROM THE MIDDLE East, Lopez-owned power firm First Gen Corp. has also set its sights on business opportunities in neighboring Southeast Asian countries.

"We're also looking at an opportunity in the Southeast Asian region. We've gotten invitations from abroad for potential partnerships, but we haven't signed anything yet," First Gen senior vice president Ricardo Tantoco said.

He declined to name which country the company was looking at, saying it was too premature to mention anything about the prospect right now.

Late last year, First Gen president and chief operating officer Federico Lopez said the power firm had sent people to scout for possible power and water projects in different countries in the Middle East.

"There's nothing final or specific yet as we are still in the scouting stage. But there are a number (that we are looking at), and we have been meeting with government officials in the Middle East. The demand for integrated power and water projects is high," he said.

Once the locations in the Middle East were identified, he said First Gen, alone or with partners, planned to put up gas-fired power plants with an integrated desalination plant for water production.

While looking at business opportunities abroad, Tantoco said First Gen, in the next 18 to 24 months, would be focusing on acquisitions and would only pursue new projects after that.

He said the company had $250 million in cash, which it could use to finance planned acquisitions in the coming months.

The company is eyeing several National Power Corp. assets, including the big-ticket 600-megawatt (MW) Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales, as well as the Ambuklao-Binga hydropower package, the Angat hydropower facility and the Palinpinon and Tiwi-Makban geothermal facilities.

Apart from the Napocor assets, First Gen is also considering private acquisition opportunities.

Of the eight Napocor generation assets that Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. had sold so far, three are now owned by First Gen: The 1.6-MW Agusan hydropower plant in Bukidnon and the 112-MW Pantabangan-Masiway hydropower package, which was composed of two generation facilities.

First Gen was one of the 20 prospective bidders present during the pre-bid conference for the Masinloc plant last week.

After 18 to 24 months, Tantoco said First Gen would be ready to focus on putting up greenfield projects all over the country.

He said the company had allotted $1.3 billion to bankroll such projects.

TVI Resources Q1 income up 67% to ₱102M

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CANADIAN MINING FIRM TVI PACIFIC INC. said its Philippine affiliate's net income in the first quarter went up 67.3 percent to C$2.4 million or about P102 million, as revenue rose 40.3 percent to C$10.23 million (P425 million).

In a report, the company said TVI Resource and Development (Philippines) Inc.'s gold output for the period went down 2.3 percent to 8,390 ounces while silver production went up 52.3 percent to 214,282 oz.

In gold terms, TVIRD's Canatuan mine in Zamboanga del Sur yielded 13,308 gold equivalent ounces (AuEqOzs), up 14 percent compared to the year-ago output in the comparative period.

Also, TVI said that while Canatuan performed strongly, the huge expenses for an aggressive exploration program resulted in a net loss of $838,060 for Canadian firm during the quarter.

Cliff James, TVI president and chief executive, said cash outflow also included initial expenses for the Canatuan sulphide-copper and zinc—expansion program, which is expected to be the cash flow engine for TVI for next year and the years to come.

James said TVIRD also completed a number of changes to the Canatuan plant which were seen to raise the overall financial performance of the plant for the rest of the year.

"These changes to the plant had a short term adverse effect on performance during the first quarter due to plant down time during modification," James said. "The positive effect of the changes was demonstrated in April, during which a daily average of 207 AuEqOzs was hit.

From January to March, Canatuan produced only 148 AuEqOzs a day or 28 percent lower.

According to TVI, metal prices are expected to continue strengthening in the near term.

Local airlines unite vs 'open skies'

By Daxim L. Lucas

JAIME J. Bautista

THE LOCAL AIRLINE INDUSTRY and various industries allied with it stand to suffer significant financial losses if the government would adopt a proposal to completely deregulate foreign airlines' access to the country.

This was the warning aired yesterday by airline officials amid the intensifying debate over the proposed 'open-skies' policy and the government's flip-flopping over the issue.

In an interview, Philippine Airlines (PAL) president Jaime J. Bautista took aim at tourism advocates who singled out the flag carrier as the main obstacle to the industry's growth.

"We can easily accommodate an increased number of tourists," he said. "All we need is a little help from the government to improve the transportation infrastructure."

Idle at night

For one, Bautista said the government could upgrade airport facilities around the country to allow airlines to fly in and out of them even at night. At present, only seven of the country's 36 commercial airports could handle night operations.

The PAL chief said this situation posed a large drag on the airline since it could only operate for eight hours each day from many destinations, resulting in idle time for many of its aircraft at night.

Upgrading domestic airports would help improve PAL's profitability and help it compete on better footing in the international front, he explained.

PAL—owned by tobacco and beer magnate Lucio C. Tan—has been accused by critics of stonewalling on the complete deregulation of the airline industry, allegedly because of its inability to compete with foreign carriers.

Bautista, however, insisted that PAL was not against liberalization and was, in fact, eager to compete with its rivals, but wanted to do so "on a level playing field."

No reciprocity

His views were echoed by Asian Spirit executive vice president Jack Po, who pointed out that foreign airlines were pushing for access the country—especially to the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) in Clark, Pampanga—while blocking local carriers' applications to fly to their own countries.

"In our case, we applied to be able to fly to Macau, but we were denied [permission], while Air Macau can fly here," he said, adding that no clear reason was given by the Macau government for rejecting his airline's application.

"What we want is reciprocity," Po said. "It must be fair."

Demand for fair play

In a rare display of solidarity, Asian Spirit recently joined PAL and Cebu Pacific Air in publicly opposing the proposed Executive Order 500-B, which will restore the liberal package offered to foreign carriers to encourage them to fly to DMIA.

Bautista said EO 500-B—which has yet to be signed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo—would effectively make the Civil Aeronautics Board a rubber stamp agency since it would no longer have the power to screen the applications of foreign airlines for landing rights.

"We are not opposed to liberalization," Bautista said, pointing out that many foreign airlines receive direct and indirect subsidies from their governments. "We're just saying it should be fair and equitable."

Food, beverage firms posted growth in Q1

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

LOCAL FOOD AND BEVERAGE COMPANIES reported mixed results in the first quarter with milk, juices, pasta and restaurant operations showing robust revenue growth, while liquor did not fare as well due to rising costs.

RFM Corp. reported a 200-percent increase in its first-quarter consolidated net income to P63 million from P21 million in the same period last year.

In a disclosure, the firm said consolidated net sales hit P1.7 billion for the quarter, up 16 percent from last year's P1.4 billion.

RFM chief finance officer Raymond B. Azcarate said "all of the company's business units performed well, with sales of Fiesta Pasta growing by 21 percent, Selecta ice cream by 20 percent, flour by 18 percent, Selecta milk and Sunkist juices by 11 percent and Swift meat products by 9 percent."

He said this was due to volume growth and higher selling prices for RFM products.

Also, he said the company's operating expenses as a percentage to sales were kept under control, leading to an increase in operating income to P90 million for the first quarter.

Restaurant operator Pancake House Inc., for its part, said its net income soared 84 percent to P14.5 million from P7.9 million in the same period last year.

Profits were propelled by its core restaurant brand Pancake House, whose net income rose sharply 80 percent and Japanese restaurant Teriyaki Boy, which posted a 420-percent increase in net income.

Consolidated revenue climbed 35 percent to P392.4 million in the first quarter from P291.2 million last year. Restaurant sales improved 34 percent to P288.3 million, from P214.8 million in the same period last year.

Commissary sales and franchise revenue rose by 42 percent and 18 percent, respectively.

In the meantime, liquor company Ginebra San Miguel Inc. reported a 7-percent rise in sales volume. Ginebra San Miguel gin's sales volume was up 23 percent. GSM Blue also continued to gain brand share, growing 135 percent from year-ago level. Export revenue also improved 48 percent, bringing first quarter revenue up by 1.19 percent to P2.98 billion.

However, sales volume incrases and improvements in distillery efficiencies were not enough to cushion the company from the impact of an 8 percent increase in excise tax and rithe rising cost of molasses.

Consequently, cost of sales rose 14 percent to P2.37 billion from P2.086 billion. This pared down gross profit by 29 percent to P607.68 million. Net income for the period was down 70.6 from P229 million in the same period last year.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 17, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	12	12	11.75	11.75	11,700
73	42.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	68	68	67.5	68	3,078,400
65.5	30.5	Banco de Oro Universal Bank	64.5	64.5	64	64	1,119,800
935	630	China Banking Corp.	920	920	920	920	520
20	18.18	Citystate Savings Bank	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	300
119	60	Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	112	113	111	111	36,920
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank, Inc	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.53	1,200,000
68.5	29	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	64	64	63	63.5	3,769,300
55	30.5	Philippine National Bank	47	47.5	47	47	209,500
68	38.5	Philippine Savings Bank	63	64	63	64	1,100
39.57	13.04	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	29.5	29.5	29	29	4,389,000
90	41	Security Bank Corp.	85	85	84	84	326,000
65.77	40.55	Union Bank of the Philippines	62	62	62	62	3,147,700
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
0.85	0.6	Bankard Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	250,000
7.7	1.5	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.7	35,000
6.5	3.5	Filipino Fund Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	1,000
39	27	First Metro Investment Corp.	38	38	38	38	1,000
2,000.00	1,500.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,650.00	1,655.00	1,650.00	1,655.00	930
5	4.15	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	4.3	4.3	4.25	4.3	5,160,000
2.4	0.97	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	2.34	2.36	2.32	2.36	413,000
1,005.00	200	The Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc	595	595	590	595	4,740
2,250.00	1,895.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,185.00	2,195.00	2,185.00	2,195.00	2,040
1.94	1.02	iVantage Corp.	1.74	1.78	1.74	1.74	1,821,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
0.37	0.16	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.32	1,750,000
62.5	41	First Gen Corp.	58	59	58	59	978,100
82.5	40.5	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	73	75.5	73	74.5	208,700
12.75	6.6	Manila Water Co. Inc.	12	12.25	12	12	3,692,700
82	13	Manila Electric Co. "A"	78	79.5	77.5	78	307,100
82.5	20.25	Manila Electric Co. "B"	77.5	79.5	77.5	79.5	1,645,100
6.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.8	29,929,000
5.7	3.35	Petron Corp.	5.1	5.1	5	5	6,429,000
1.62	0.89	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.48	1.5	1.46	1.46	1,380,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
5.9	2.85	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.9	5.9	5.5	5.6	493,000
2.95	1.88	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.2	2.22	2.18	2.22	981,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	25	25.5	25	25.5	1,100
61	30	Jollibee Foods Corp.	53	53.5	52.5	53.5	462,400
1.62	0.89	RFM Corp.	1.4	1.42	1.38	1.4	1,252,000
4.05	2.34	Roxas Holdings	2.38	2.42	2.38	2.42	11,000
80	61	San Miguel Corp. "A"	79.5	80	74.5	75	529,600
88	68	San Miguel Corp. "B"	86	86	82	82	56,600
22.25	15.75	Universal Robina Corp.	16	16	15.75	15.75	912,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
5.3	1.07	EEI Corp.	5.2	5.3	5	5	2,465,000
4.5	1.06	Fortune Cement Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	125,000
9.2	4.2	Holcim Philippines Inc.	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	13,000
7	1.1	Republic Cement Corp.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	10,000
2	0.245	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.82	1.82	3,403,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	1.42	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	6.1	6.1	6	6.1	1,482,000
0.82	0.5	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	10,000
0.95	0.185	Metro Alliance Hold'gs and Eqts. "A"	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	40,000
0.99	0.33	Metro Alliance Hold'gs and Eqts. "B"	0.57	0.84	0.57	0.84	20,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.41	[illegible]	[illegible]	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	[illegible]
		HOLDING FIRMS					
4.05	1.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.7	3.7	527,000
0.0925	0.022	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	2,900,000
0.97	0.17	APC Group Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.87	0.9	102,150,000
0.018	0.006	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	72,700,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.8	1,791,000
0.016	0.0065	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	119,000,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.4	6.4	5,389,000
1.04	0.45	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.78	0.78	450,000
2.26	0.83	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.1	2.16	2.02	2.12	7,608,000
566.67	272.92	Ayala Corp.	545	545	505	510	75,790
14	7.92	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	13.75	14	13.75	14	123,700
6.9	0.7	Balabac Resources and Holdings Co. Inc.	4.65	4.7	4.65	4.65	417,000
4.45	0.97	Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.8	3.85	3.75	3.8	6,240,000
9.1	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.6	630,000
6	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	5.3	5.6	5.3	5.5	3,838,000
0.42	0.13	Forum Pacific Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	40,000
3.55	1.14	House of Investments Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	5,000
14.5	5.3	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	12.25	12.25	12	12.25	1,010,400
2.65	1	Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc. "B"	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	50,000
0.88	0.1	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	70,000
13.25	0.88	Magnum Holdings Inc.	12	12.25	11.5	11.75	1,648,500
4.55	0.19	Multitech Investments Corp.	4.25	4.25	4.1	4.2	3,726,000
5.4	1.2	PAL Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.75	402,000
0.5	0.155	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.45	0.5	0.45	0.47	23,160,000
1.7	1.2	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	62,000
420	205	SM Investments Corp.	405	420	402.5	417.5	795,000
2.2	0.6	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.8	67,000
0.51	0.115	Sinophil Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.44	0.46	58,140,000
1.38	0.68	South China Resources Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	100,000
0.41	0.05	Unioil Resources and Holdings Co. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	4,400,000
1.68	0.78	Vivant Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	2,000
0.24	0.08	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.175	0.18	0.165	0.165	7,010,000
		PROPERTY					
2.16	0.75	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.64	1.76	1.64	1.66	5,202,000
0.58	0.3	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.44	0.45	0.44	0.45	110,000
15.75	8.54	Ayala Land Inc.	15.5	15.75	15.25	15.25	13,025,400
1.72	0.95	Belle Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.38	1.4	6,364,000
3.1	1.18	C and P Homes Inc.	2.9	2.95	2.8	2.9	2,010,000
4.5	1.8	Cebu Holdings Inc.	4.3	4.35	4.3	4.35	330,000
0.54	0.24	Crown Equities Inc.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.48	5,410,000
0.54	0.165	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.51	0.54	0.51	0.53	26,720,000
0.99	0.44	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.78	4,680,000
0.195	0.027	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.18	0.185	0.175	0.18	15,990,000
1.12	0.38	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.81	0.81	0.78	0.8	3,020,000
2.04	0.93	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.8	1.84	1.8	1.84	32,353,000
0.016	0.0038	Interport Resources Corp. "A"	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	28,800,000
0.016	0.005	Interport Resources Corp. "B"	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,000,000
1.8	0.74	Keppel Philippines Properties Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	100,000
0.69	0.2	Kuok Phil. Properties Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.41	0.41	3,070,000
0.99	0.18	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.72	0.72	2,320,000
3.95	1.26	Megaworld Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.85	3.95	63,346,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.65	4.7	4.65	4.65	1,080,000
0.87	0.25	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.61	0.61	3,900,000
3.5	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	2.8	3.1	2.8	3.1	1,014,000
23	9.6	Robinson Land Corp.	19.25	19.25	19	19	13,877,000
5.2	1.23	SM Development Corp.	5.1	5.1	5	5	440,000
13	6.9	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12.25	12.25	12	12.25	4,263,400
0.27	0.06	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.205	0.205	3,240,000
1.74	0.3	Zipporah Realty Holdings Inc.	1.32	1.34	1.3	1.32	1,104,000
		MEDIA					
[illegible]	[illegible]	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31.5	32	31.5	31.5	[illegible]
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.62	1.64	4,501,000
1,445.00	820	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,350.00	1,350.00	1,340.00	1,340.00	15,040
2,820.00	1,700.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,560.00	2,560.00	2,515.00	2,525.00	121,730
7.9	3.1	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	4,043,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.30	0.155	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	5,120,000
9	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	8.4	8.4	8	8.2	545,000
7.6	2	IPVG Corp.	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	303,000
0.075	0.046	ISM Communications Corp.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	100,000
2.9	1.78	Ionics Inc.	2.26	2.26	2.22	2.22	385,000
0.0675	0.038	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	1,000,000
1.84	1.12	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.44	1.46	445,000
0.06	0.025	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.049	0.05	0.049	0.05	241,500,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.12	2.12	2.1	2.12	342,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
1.88	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.62	1.64	1.62	1.64	497,000
6.8	2.5	Asian Terminals Inc.	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.3	256,000
32	12.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	28.5	29	28	28.5	5,233,100
2.14	0.86	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.96	2	1.94	1.94	1,632,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.26	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	460,000
5	2.7	Manila Jockey Club Inc.	4.8	5	4.8	4.9	65,000
0.54	0.18	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.49	2,200,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.99	1	0.97	0.97	1,000,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
7	1.5	Easycall Comm. Phils. Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	4,000
4.35	1.84	Macroasia Corp.	4.1	4.25	4.05	4.2	4,143,000
16.25	13	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	15.5	15.75	15.25	15.5	434,200
30	9.5	Paxys Inc.	27.5	27.5	26.5	26.5	603,500
55	22	Prime Gaming Philippines Inc.	55	55	55	55	500
		MINING					
0.018	0.007	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	68,400,000
7.6	2.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	6.7	6.7	6.5	6.5	391,000
7.7	2.55	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.6	203,000
4	1.62	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	31,000
2.2	0.0602	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	2.12	2.16	2.1	2.12	29,775,000
0.4	0.215	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	3,930,000
0.44	0.225	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.35	2,750,000
0.037	0.0154	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.035	0.036	0.035	0.036	672,400,000
0.04	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.039	186,700,000
0.024	0.0075	Omico Corp.	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.02	285,600,000
5.6	2.65	Philex Mining Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.2	7,081,000
30.5	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	28	28	27	27	81,700
0.87	0.25	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	100,000
1.8	0.41	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	4,379,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.23	Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.45	0.46	0.42	0.44	35,240,000
0.018	0.008	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	163,500,000
0.019	0.009	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	3,000,000
14.81	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
0.018	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.017	160,600,000

BY INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK

CURRENCIES

May 17, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.739809	1.000000	46.9570
Japan	Yen	0.006125	0.008279	0.3888
United Kingdom	Pound	1.462159	1.976400	92.8058
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.094629	0.127910	6.0063
Switzerland	Franc	0.604765	0.817461	38.3855
Canada	Dollar	0.670178	0.905879	42.5374
Singapore	Dollar	0.486205	0.657203	30.8603
Australia	Dollar	0.609900	0.824402	38.7114
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.962410	2.652590	124.5577
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.197272	0.266652	12.5212
Brunei	Dollar	0.484612	0.655050	30.7592
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000114	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.022084	0.029851	1.4017
UAE	Dirham	0.201429	0.272272	12.7851
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.351700	63.4718
Korea	Won	0.000801	0.001083	0.0509
China	Yuan**	0.096304	0.130174	6.1126
Argentina	Peso	0.240784	0.325468	15.2830
Brazil	Real	0.377242	0.509918	23.9442
Denmark	Kroner	0.134181	0.181373	8.5167
India	Rupee	0.018231	0.024643	1.1572
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217604	0.294135	13.8117
Mexico	New Peso	0.068666	0.092816	4.3584
New Zealand	Dollar	0.541985	0.732601	34.4007
Norway	Kroner	0.122299	0.165311	7.7625
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012194	0.016483	0.7740
South Africa	Rand	0.106730	0.144267	6.7743
Sweden	Kroner	0.108626	0.146830	6.8947
Syria	Pound	0.014252	0.019264	0.9046
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022177	0.029976	1.4076
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000345	0.000466	0.0219

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—May 16, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.
** Asian time closing rate as of May 16, 2007

Retirees seen becoming another major economic force

Relatives working overseas providing financial support

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SPENDING POWER OF Filipino retirees is seen to expand by 4.4 percent a year in the next 10 years to hit $6.8 billion in 2015, aided by remittances from relatives working overseas, a Mastercard-funded study said.

Yuwa Hedrick-Wong, an economic adviser of Mastercard International, said in a recent publication "The Glittering Silver Market: The Rise of the Elderly Consumers in Asia," financial support for the elderly in the Philippines was dependent on the extended family units as social security coverage remained small.

However, he said the Filipino elderly were supported financially by the unique overseas Filipino worker phenomenon.

"The majority of these overseas workers leave behind their spouses and young children. In many instances, both parents work overseas, leaving the young children at home," he said.

He thus noted that a situation was created in which the grandparents and sometimes the grand uncles and aunts serve as surrogate parents for OFW children.

"And, for the elderly themselves, their role as surrogate parents enables the parents to seek work abroad. It may not be ideal, but in many ways this is a win-win situation for the elderly, the overseas workers and the children left behind," Hedrick-Wong said.

As of 2005, the total spending power of retired empty nesters and retired old singles was estimated at $4.4 billion. On a per capita basis, the average spending power was about $1,350 per person for retired empty nesters and $1,230 for retired old singles.

"The spending power is split quite evenly between the retired empty nesters (or those whose adult children have left their homes to live elsewhere) and the retired old singles, with the spending power of the former growing at a slightly higher annual rate of 4.8 percent, compared with 3.9 percent for the latter," he said.

But the study also noted the wide discrepancy between the elderly in the rural and urban areas, with those based in Metro Manila being more dynamic.

Among the five discretionary expenditure items, spending on dining and entertainment was noted as the biggest in 2005, accounting for 60 percent of total. Shopping came in second, accounting for 26 percent, while purchases of vehicles, PC and mobile phones ranked third.

"The expected growth rates of these key discretionary expenditure items are very uneven in the next 10 years. Spending on travel and leisure activities is expected to grow the fastest at an average of over 10 percent a year," Hedrick-Wong said.

Spending on shopping, on the other hand, was expected to grow the slowest at 0.9 percent per year.

"These five discretionary items will grow collectively at an average of 7.8 percent per year in the coming decade, bringing the total discretionary expenditure to almost $2 billion in 2015," he said.

Across the region, Mastercard president for Asia-Pacific, Middle East and Africa Andre Sekulic said the lengthening of individual life expectancy would make the elderly a dynamic driver of the consumer market.

"The silver market of elderly consumers is set to glitter in Asia Pacific. The reward is expected to be great when businesses get it right," Sekulic said.

In affluent Asia-Pacific—consisting of Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and Australia—the total potential spending by the elderly households was estimated to have reached $868 billion in 2005, and is expected to rise to $1.5 trillion in 2015.

In emerging Asia—consisting of China, India, Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines—total spending by elderly households was estimated at $153 billion in 2005 and projected to rise to $430 billion in 2015.

Insurer helps students brush up on their English

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

CORPORATE CITIZEN

FOREIGN INVESTORS IN THE PHILIPPINES will say that the Filipinos' ability to communicate in English is one of the reasons why they put their money here.

English, after all, is the language of the Internet and the lingua franca in math and the sciences.

Unfortunately, the Philippines is losing its edge in the English department as seen in the increasing difficulty of call center operators to fill job openings that require excellent English skills.

According to the oft-repeated statistics, only three of every 100 applicants will land a job in a call center.

There are many reasons bandied about to explain the decline in English proficiency in the Philippines. One is the increasing use of Filipino as the medium of instruction and the proliferation of television shows in Filipino is another.

Focus on proficiency

Insurance giant Philamlife, however, is more interested in finding a solution to bring up the quality of English skills, especially among the youth.

This is why Philamlife has partnered with the American Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines and some universities to train a new generation of Filipinos that express themselves well in both written and spoken English.

Philamlife president and CEO Jose L. Cuisia Jr. told the INQUIRER that the group had decided to adopt AmCham's Promoting English Proficiency project as one of its key programs to celebrate its 60th year in the Philippines because it believed that having an English-speaking workforce was still one of the Philippines' top competitive advantages.

"It's a pity that our strong competitive edge in English is slowly slipping away," Cuisia said.

As its contribution to the efforts to bring up English skills among the youth, Philamlife will invest P5 million to finance the training in English of 100 teachers and 1,000 students in six colleges and universities.

Cuisia said Philamlife would use the DynEd interactive software program to improve English skills to help the teachers and students improve their skills.

The DynEd courseware, which was developed by California-based DynEd International, is a preferred software used for English language training.

He said the teachers and students will be tested before the start of the training to determine their English proficiency level.

A post-test will then be administered after the 80-hour computer-based training to see how well their English skills have improved.

Generating interest

Araullo University in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija, became the Philamlife group's first partner school in English training last March.

Philam finances the training modules while the schools will provide the equipment, mainly a computer laboratory where the teachers and students will undergo training.

Cuisia said he was happy to see that the university executives have taken it upon themselves to invite students and teachers from nearby schools to also take part in the training.

"We would want to see a multiplier effect to the training, and encourage the universities to continue with the program," Cuisia said.

He said Philam would only bankroll the training for one year.

It is hoped that the partner schools would invest in the continued training to involve more teachers and students.

Aside from Araullo, the other beneficiary schools include Far Eastern University in Manila; De La Salle Lipa in Batangas; Cebu Normal University, and Cagayan de Oro College.

"We just want to be the catalyst to get other companies and universities to go into English training," Cuisia said.

PROMOTING
NGL H
ROFIC Y

THE PHILAMLIFE-PROMOTING English Proficiency (PEP) program will train 6,600 teachers and students from universities through computer-aided English language instruction. The partnership was formalized recently in Araullo University, in Cabanatuan City with Philamlife president Jose L. Cuisia Jr. (third from left) leading the ceremonies.

The continuous growth in the demand for agents in call centers and companies providing backroom services, such as accounting and human resource management, lends urgency to improving English skills.

Meeting BPO industry needs

The Philippines is already making its presence felt in the global BPO and call center industry, which explains the influx of companies in the Philippines.

There are job openings just waiting to be filled up.

Cuisia, however, said that meeting the needs of the BPO and call center industry for English-skilled employees was not the only reason to improve English proficiency in the Philippines.

For him, communicating well in English is a plus in any career and it opens up opportunities to climb the corporate ladder.

Fortunately, Filipinos have a natural flair for languages, which means that with just a little bit of training and effort, the Philippines can surely arrest the decline in English skills.

"The potential in the call center industry alone is huge, we should take advantage of the growth and bring up our English skills," Cuisia said.

Philippine National Bank

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on May 29, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. at the Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila.

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice of Meeting and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2006 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 30, 2006
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2006
5. Approval of the 2006 Annual Report
6. Approval of the Amendment of the Articles of Incorporation to withhold the stockholders' pre-emptive right to subscribe to any new or additional shares of the Bank
7. Ratification of All Acts, Resolutions and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2006 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
8. Election of Directors
9. Appointment of External Auditor
10. Other Matters
11. Adjournment

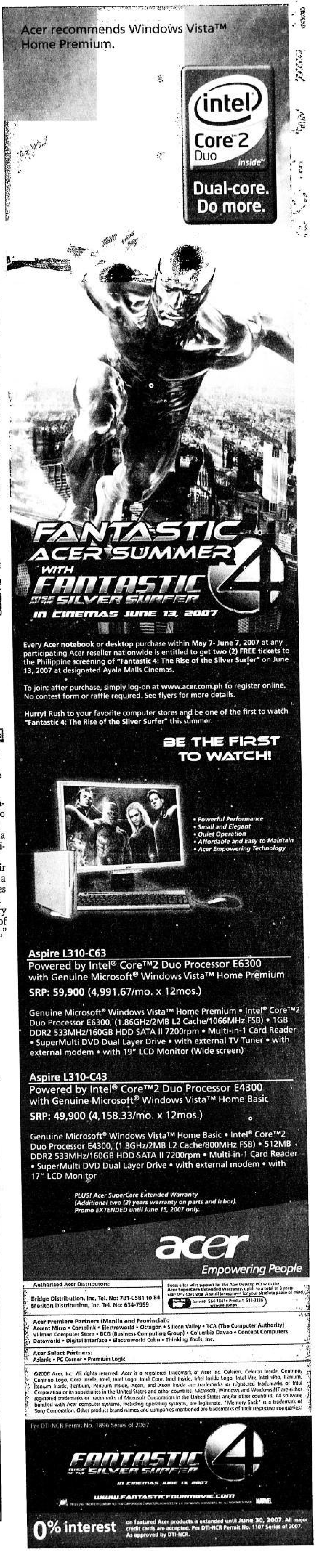
Minutes of the 2006 Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors from May 31, 2006 will be available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary.

Only stockholders of record as of April 30, 2007 will be entitled to notice of, and vote at, this meeting. Registration will begin at 6:00 a.m.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a PROXY to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. on May 24, 2007. Any proxies so received will be validated by the Bank's Corporate Secretary on May 25, 2007, 9:30 a.m., at the Office of the Stock Transfer Agent at Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Pasay City, February 16, 2007

RENATO J. FERNANDEZ
Corporate Secretary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Every Acer notebook or desktop purchase within May 7- June 7, 2007 at any participating Acer reseller nationwide is entitled to get two (2) FREE tickets to the Philippine screening of "Fantastic 4: The Rise of the Silver Surfer" on June 13, 2007 at designated Ayala Malls Cinemas.

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SRP: 59,900 (4,991.67/mo. x 12mos.)

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Aspire L310-C43
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with Genuine Microsoft® Windows Vista™ Home Basic
SRP: 49,900 (4,158.33/mo. x 12mos.)

Genuine Microsoft® Windows Vista™ Home Basic • Intel® Core™2 Duo Processor E4300, (1.8GHz/2MB L2 Cache/800MHz FSB) • 512MB • DDR2 533MHz/160GB HDD SATA II 7200rpm • Multi-in-1 Card Reader • SuperMulti DVD Dual Layer Drive • with external modem • with 17" LCD Monitor

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1896 Series of 2007.

FANTASTIC 4 RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER
IN CINEMAS JUNE 13, 2007
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0% interest on featured Acer products is extended until **June 30, 2007.** All major credit cards are accepted. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1107 Series of 2007. As approved by DTI-NCR.

Japan economic growth slows to 2.4% in Q1

THE MAIN street of Tokyo's Ginza shopping district is reflected on a store window. Japanese economic growth slowed to 2.4 percent in the latest quarter, easing pressure on any immediate interest rate hike while still chalking a ninth-straight quarter of expansion for the world's second-largest economy. AP

TOKYO—JAPANESE ECONOMIC growth slowed to a 2.4-percent pace in the first quarter as businesses cut back on investment amid worries about a slowdown in the United States, Japan's biggest export market.

But economists agreed that Japan's overall growth was still healthy and seemed to be stabilizing.

The gross domestic product figures, released Thursday by the government, also came after an unusually strong October-December quarter, when the economy surged ahead at a 5 percent annual pace.

"It is a mistake to interpret it as poor figures being a sign of a new trend," said Richard Jerram, chief economist for Macquarie Securities in Tokyo. "Growth seems to be stabilizing at a solid healthy rate, without major fluctuations in either direction."

Economists said figures would likely discourage any immediate interest rate hike, but would not derail the Bank of Japan from pursuing future increases.

Just hours after the figures were released, the central bank said after a regularly scheduled policy meeting that it was keeping its benchmark rate at 0.5 percent.

Leading growth in the first quarter was consumer spending, which accounts for more than half the economy.

It climbed 0.9 percent from the previous quarter, but the pace of expansion slowed too, from 1.1 percent in October-December.

Exports also helped offset slowdowns in business investment, shooting up 3.3 percent. They rose a meager 0.8 percent in the previous quarter.

"While this is relatively good news, there are still areas of concern," Adachi said.

He highlighted the 0.9 percent drop in business investment in the January-March quarter, a sharp reversal from the 2.3 percent increase the previous quarter.

Capital expenditure has climbed for the past four years, and it was only natural that the investment would taper off, Adachi said.

Still, the decline is worrisome because business investment has helped fuel Japan's economic comeback from more than a decade of economic stagnation.

Japan is also vulnerable to a possible slowdown in the United States, which just last month reported its worst economic growth in four years: Crawling at a 1.3 percent pace in the opening quarter of 2007.

Compared to the previous quarter, the Japanese economy grew 0.6 percent, the Cabinet Office said. If maintained for a full year, the economy would grow 2.4 percent, just below the 2.6 percent forecast by economists surveyed by Dow Jones Newswires. *AP*

China's investments up

BEIJING—CHINA'S INVESTMENT IN REAL estate, factories and other urban fixed assets soared in the first four months of this year, the government said Thursday, suggesting authorities might raise interest rates again to cool the boom.

Total investment in urban fixed assets was 2.3 trillion yuan ($299 billion), up 25.5 percent from the same period last year, the National Bureau of Statistics reported. That exceeded the 2006 full-year growth rate of 24.5 percent.

Chinese leaders have raised interest rates three times over the past year and imposed curbs on investment in factories, luxury apartments and other assets. They worry that runaway spending could ignite politically dangerous inflation or a debt crisis if projects fail.

But the controls have had limited success in a system that is flush with money from booming exports and economic growth that is expected to top 10 percent this year for a fifth straight year.

Some industries far outpaced overall investment in the January-April period, led by nonmetal mining, where spending rose 48.3 percent to 54.7 billion yuan ($7.1 billion), the statistics bureau said on its web site.

Investment in real estate rose 27.4 percent to 526.5 billion yuan ($68.5 billion), while the figure for China's booming oil and gas industry was up 25.6 percent at 39.1 billion yuan ($5 billion), the agency said.

China's most recent interest rate rise came on March 17, when lending rates were hiked to 6.39 percent.

Even before Thursday's announcement, economists were forecasting at least one more rate increase this year.

Premier Wen Jiabao, the country's top economic official, said Thursday the government will make interest rates more flexible and control the growth of the money supply to ensure economic stability.

"There are some problems. We face excessive liquidity, an imbalance in the balance of payments, and rapid accumulation of foreign exchange. But we are taking measures to deal with these issues," Wen said in Shanghai at a meeting of the African Development Bank. *AP*

Asian shares up; yen at 3-month low

SINGAPORE—ASIAN SHARES FIRMED on Thursday, but Tokyo held steady following weaker-than-expected growth data that underlined expectations the Bank of Japan was in no hurry to raise interest rates.

A record close on Wall Street bolstered share markets, pushing Singapore, Seoul and Sydney to record peaks.

The dollar rose to a three-month high against the yen, bolstered by upbeat US industrial output data and sparking buying of Asian exporter shares.

Tokyo's Nikkei ended down 0.17 percent and the TOPIX index shed 0.27 percent, erasing early gains, after the BOJ on Thursday left its interest rates unchanged at 0.5 percent, the lowest among the top industrialized nations.

Sony Corp. offered support, gaining 2.6 percent after the electronics giant forecast a jump in annual profit on strong sales of LCD TVs and expectations that game-unit losses will shrink.

Chinese stocks rose 1.4 percent to recover further from Tuesday's sharp drop. A fund manager said China's stock market is overheated, but some blue-chips, such as financials, were worth holding.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.4 percent, led by China Netcom, which jumped 4 percent after Goldman Sachs upgraded the fixed-line operator.

South Korean shipbuilders such as Hyundai Heavy Industries soared 6.5 percent, driving the KOSPI up almost 1 percent to a record close. But investors were edgy after the Korean won rose to its highest in nine and a half years versus the yen.

Singapore shares raced to record peaks, led by Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp.

MSCI's measure of Asia Pacific stocks excluding Japan gained 0.7 percent, just off a record high on Monday.

The Dow Jones average rose 0.7 percent to its 23rd record close this year, as disclosure of a major investor's stake in Citigroup and a buyout deal for Bausch & Lomb sparked speculation of more takeovers.

The tech-laden Nasdaq gained 0.88 percent.

The dollar moved up to 120.85 yen and struck 120.88 yen, the highest since late February and up from near 120.70 yen before Japan's economic data.

The euro rose to 163.49 yen from near 163.25 yen, in sight of the single currency's all-time peak of 163.80 yen.

"The main (Japan) scenario remains for a rate rise in August or September, but it wouldn't be surprising if such expectations cool a little in light of the data," said Takafumi Yamawaki, fixed income strategist at Morgan Stanley.

Oil rose after falling overnight on a strong build in crude and fuel stocks in the United States, but worries over gasoline emerged after the latest batch of US refinery snags. *Reuters*

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DBP Strengthens Support for Modern RORO System

In a bid to help modernize the country's road roll-on/roll-off (RORO) terminal system, the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) will be more liberal with its credit terms in order to encourage more investments in this major infrastructure area.

DBP president & chief executive officer Reynaldo G. David said the bank aims to push for more investments in the road RORO terminal system, especially with the opening of 20 missionary routes this year that will complete the 49 RORO routes under the government's Strong Republic Nautical Highway (SRNH) project. "We want more participation in this initiative since the RORO will bring our countrymen from far-flung areas to the mainstream of economic activities. It will bring their goods and commodities from the farms to the markets in an easier and more efficient manner," he stressed.

Under the liberalized credit terms, interest rate for loans for the acquisition of RORO vessels in the missionary connections will be 7% per annum for the first two years, while succeeding rates will be based on Philippine Dealing System Treasury Rates. Collateral will be the vessel itself. Vessel classification may now be done by any member of the International Association of Classification Societies or the Philippine Registry of Shipping. Repayment period is a maximum of 15 years inclusive of a two-year grace period.

Floating bridges

DBP's initiatives towards the development of the country's road RORO terminal system complement efforts to address the need for an efficient network of terminals and ferry boats to serve as floating bridges that will provide continuity for transporting people and cargoes from one land mass to another.

To date, DBP has approved projects for RORO port development, modernization, upgrading of vessels, and maritime education. In addition, the development of the 20 identified missionary routes will complement the existing Central, Eastern and Western seaboards under the SRNH.

"DBP recognizes the need to support the capital infrastructure requirements of these missionary connections. The funds have been deployed for these priority connections; the liberalized credit terms should make the mechanisms we have put in place more attractive to the various stakeholders of the envisioned modern road RORO terminal system," David explained.

Composed mostly of horizontal connections, these missionary routes point to enhanced interisland trade and tourism brought about by lower transport costs and ease in travel time, greater mobility for ordinary commuters and access to new markets for agri-products and tourism-oriented SMEs.

"For instance, the missionary route from San Jose, Mindoro Occidental to Coron, Palawan will connect Palawan with the existing Roxas, Occidental Mindoro-Caticlan, Aklan route. Once completed, this will basically connect the main beach resorts in the country," David explained.

Another priority connection, David added, is the Mariveles, Bataan - Cavite City - Manila route that will decongest ports in Manila and serve as a jump-off point to Batangas. The San Narciso, Quezon - San Pascual, Burias Island route, meanwhile, will link Quezon Province to the island territory of Masbate. "President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is very much interested in this route especially since there is minimal economic activity happening in Burias Island," he noted.

DBP president & CEO Reynaldo G. David

Logistics infrastructure program

The road RORO terminal system is one of the three components of DBP's Sustainable Logistics Development Program (SLDP), a flagship initiative for improving the country's logistics infrastructure through assistance for shipping, terminal facilities and storage projects that should enhance trade and investments.

The SLDP is an investment financing facility for the development of a comprehensive and integrated transportation system as well as related infrastructure and support services for the efficient movement of goods and people. Its other components are the grains highway and the cold chain.

The grains highway is envisioned to facilitate the transport of corn from Mindanao to Luzon through modern bulk processing and handling centers, trucking, terminal facilities with grain silos, bulk carriers, bulk grain handling facilities, and other post harvest facilities. The cold chain, on the other hand, focuses on re-engineering the cold storage logistics for perishable items like fruits and vegetables. Projects assisted under this component include processing and marketing centers, aggregating centers, reefer vans/transport equipment, ice plants, and other cold storage facilities.

"Through the SLDP, we hope to provide the impetus for the introduction of a modern system that would afford greater mobility to the commuting public and cost-effective means of bringing goods -- particularly agricultural commodities -- from production areas to consumption sites. Ultimately, we expect this strategy to redound to a reduction in transport, handling, storage, and distribution costs, while addressing concerns relating to wastage and spoilage of harvested produce. With the SLDP, we see the general public - from farmers and the others on the production side to the consumers - benefiting from cheaper goods, improved agricultural productivity and food security amidst a backdrop of an enhanced logistics infrastructure," David explained.

Since its launching in 2002, DBP has approved 212 projects under the SLDP amounting to more than P12-billion. These projects include general cargo, lighterage, maritime education, pilotage, port development/ facilities, reefer fish carriers, shipyard/slipway, and tanker ships.

"Overall, these projects have enabled us to make a concrete impact in terms of increasing tonnage of domestic shipping industry with emphasis on safety, efficiency, and standard of domestic liners; while continuously upgrading seafarer education and training; and modernizing port and port cargo handling equipment," David said.

Promoting the RORO

To further develop awareness on the road RORO terminal system, the Bank held last year the "Ready, Set, RORO!" DBP Interisland Race, a three-day race that saw ten teams competing in a series of challenges that took them to various destinations along the western nautical highway.

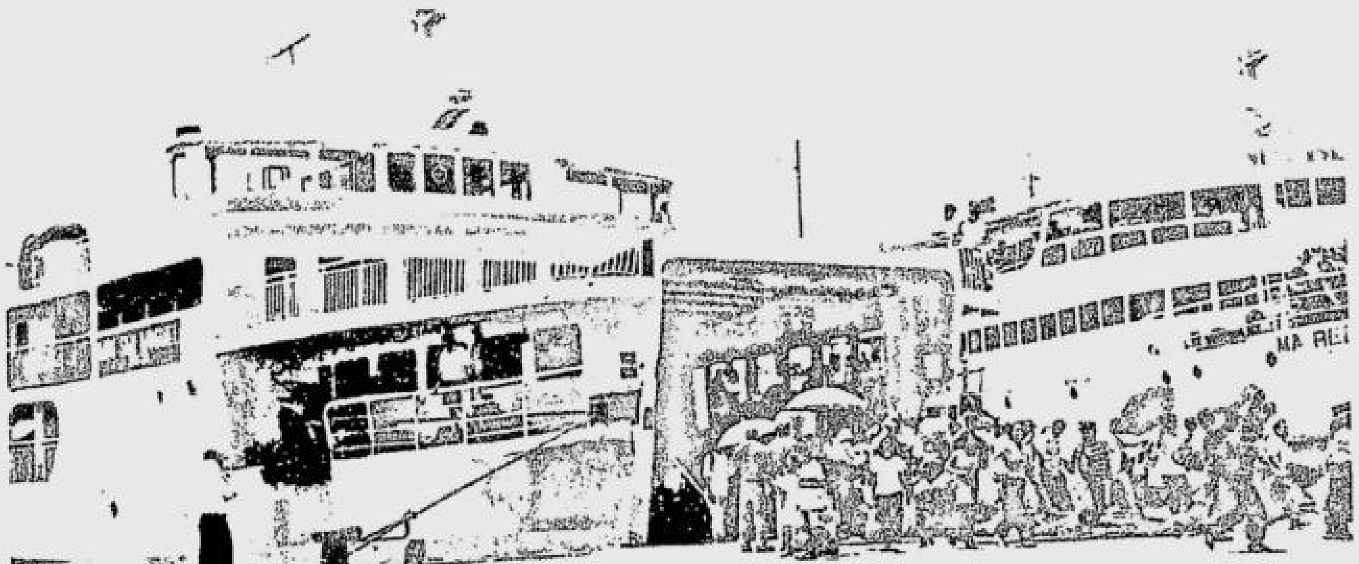
"With the 'Ready, Set, RORO!' DBP Interisland Race, we wanted to show to all that the routes are developed, that the ships are safe and equipped with the necessary facilities, and that travel is both cheap and convenient. We wanted to put the RORO on the map of domestic tourism. We wanted to make it known that the RORO is friendly to travelers, so that RORO becomes domestic tourism, and people will support it year in and year out," David explained.

Plans are now underway for the second run this year of this reality game inspired by the TV series "The Amazing Race."

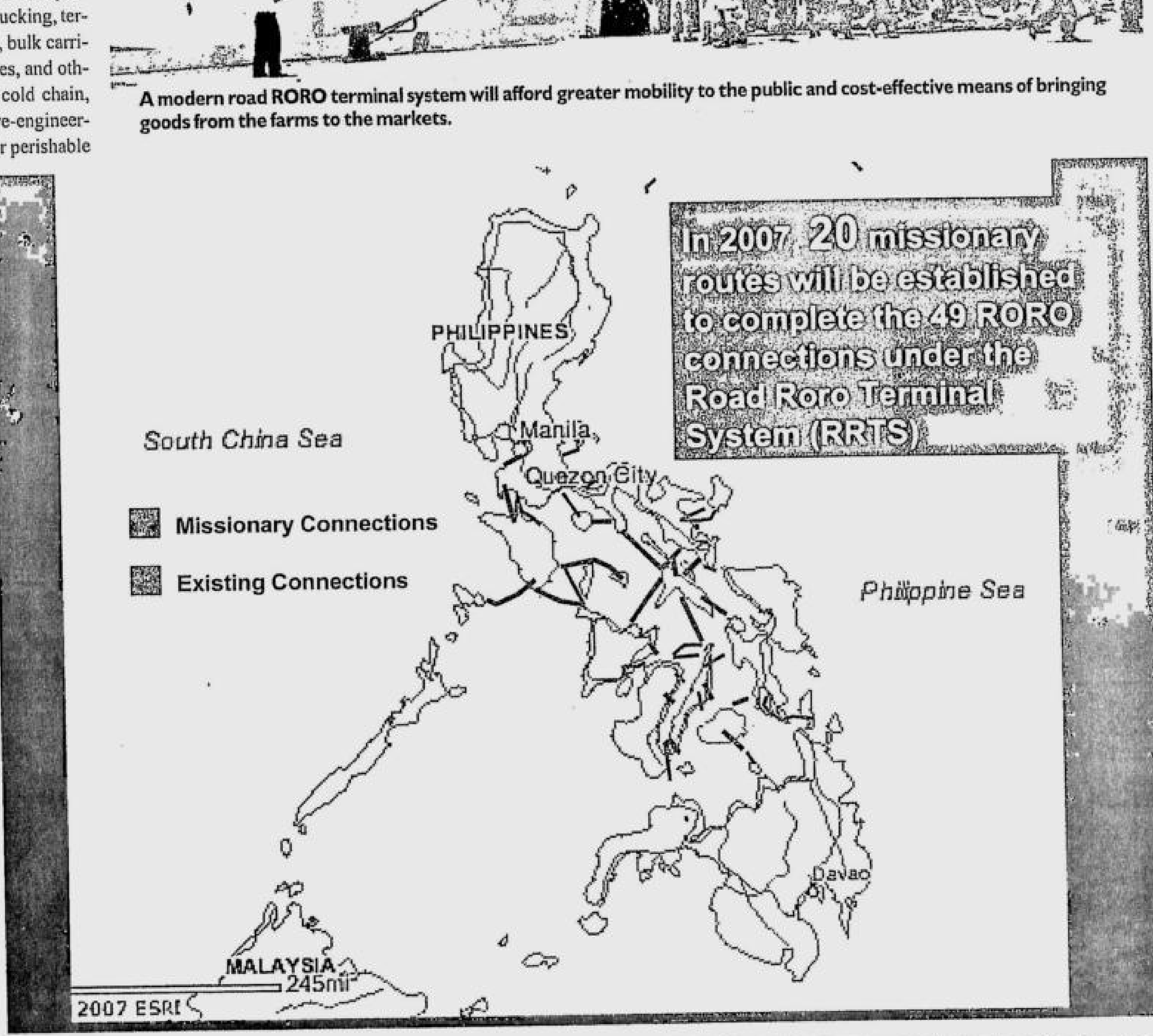
The right funding mix

DBP currently has total available funds amounting to P47-billion for various projects in key sectors that include infrastructure and logistics. "There is great investment opportunity and potential in the road RORO terminal system. I would like to encourage our stakeholders - the shipbuilders, local government units, and private sector investors - to avail of the financing opportunity DBP offers through the SLDP," David said.

Aside from funding support, DBP also offers technical assistance in the areas of feasibility studies; procurement of vessels; and advisory on ports development, licenses required for port construction, and environmental clearance. "As you can see, DBP is more than ready to do its role. The bank has studied the right investment and funding mix for specific projects in this area, and we are ready to provide technical and financial tailwind to interested investors," David ended.



A modern road RORO terminal system will afford greater mobility to the public and cost-effective means of bringing goods from the farms to the markets.



In 2007, 20 missionary routes will be established to complete the 49 RORO connections under the Road Roro Terminal System (RRTS)
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Quezon City
South China Sea
Missionary Connections
Existing Connections
Philippine Sea
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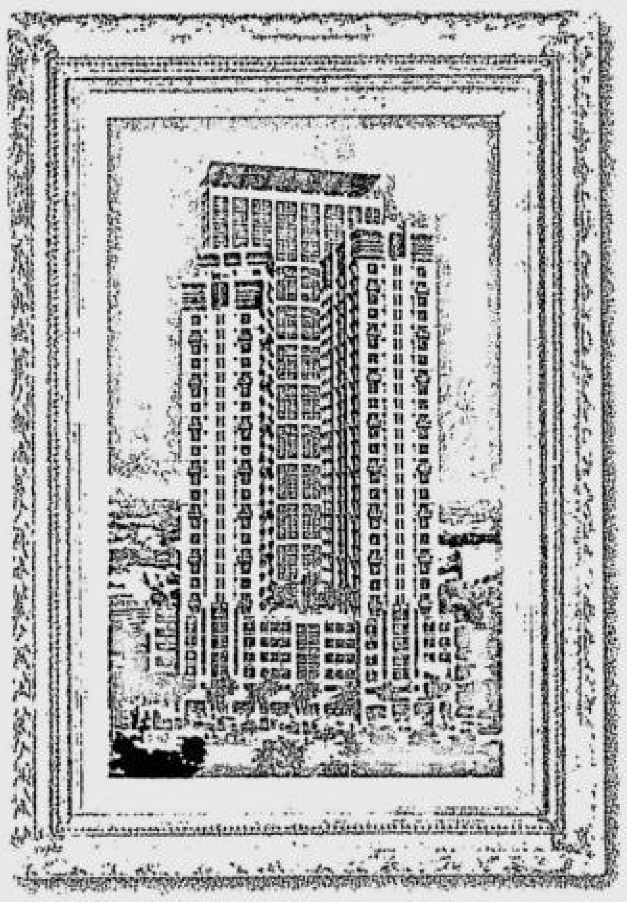

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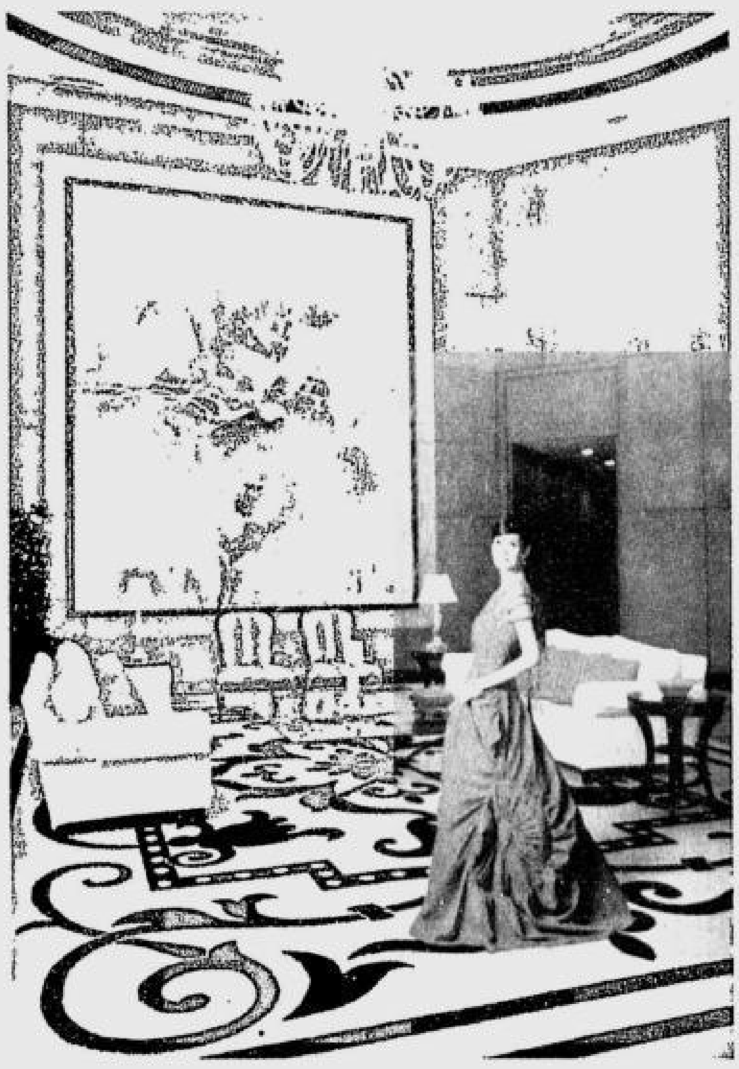

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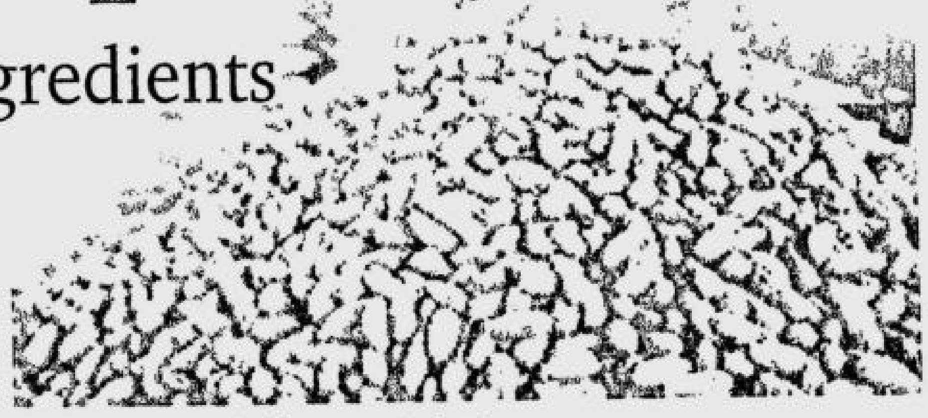
Money from nuts is not peanuts

Venture started with a few pesos worth of ingredients



JESS Peanuts started with sugar coated nuts.

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co
Contributor,
UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries

POBLACION, SOUTH COTABATO—THERE is money in the peanut business. And it's, well, not peanuts.

This is what Loreto Corpus of Santo Niño, this town and province, learned from 20 years running Jess Peanuts.

Jess Peanuts, named after Jesse Corpus, Aling Lory's husband, manufactures a variety of peanut products: toasted, salted, in balls and bars and polvoron with peanuts and turrones de mani. In addition, it produces bread sticks made from flour and banana chips.

It is a business that withstood one crisis after another and is now on the way to recovery.

Lory Aro and Jesse Corpus share the same roots—Bacolod City, growing up amidst the backdrop of Negros feudal society, composed of a handful of land-rich hacienderos on one extreme and thousands of impoverished sugarcane workers on the other.

Lory is the daughter of one such worker or *travajante*. As a young girl she worked in the sugar plantation on off-school days, applying fertilizer, preferring this to washing and ironing clothes which she found tedious and boring. In school, she was an honor-lister and a student leader. She enrolled in accountancy after high school but had to drop out after a semester for lack of money to matriculate with.

On the other hand, Jesse belonged to a family of photographers who owned the well-partronized King and Queen Photo Studio in Bacolod way back in the '40s through the '50s. He took up a course in banking and finance but also dropped out to take up photography because it must be "in his blood."

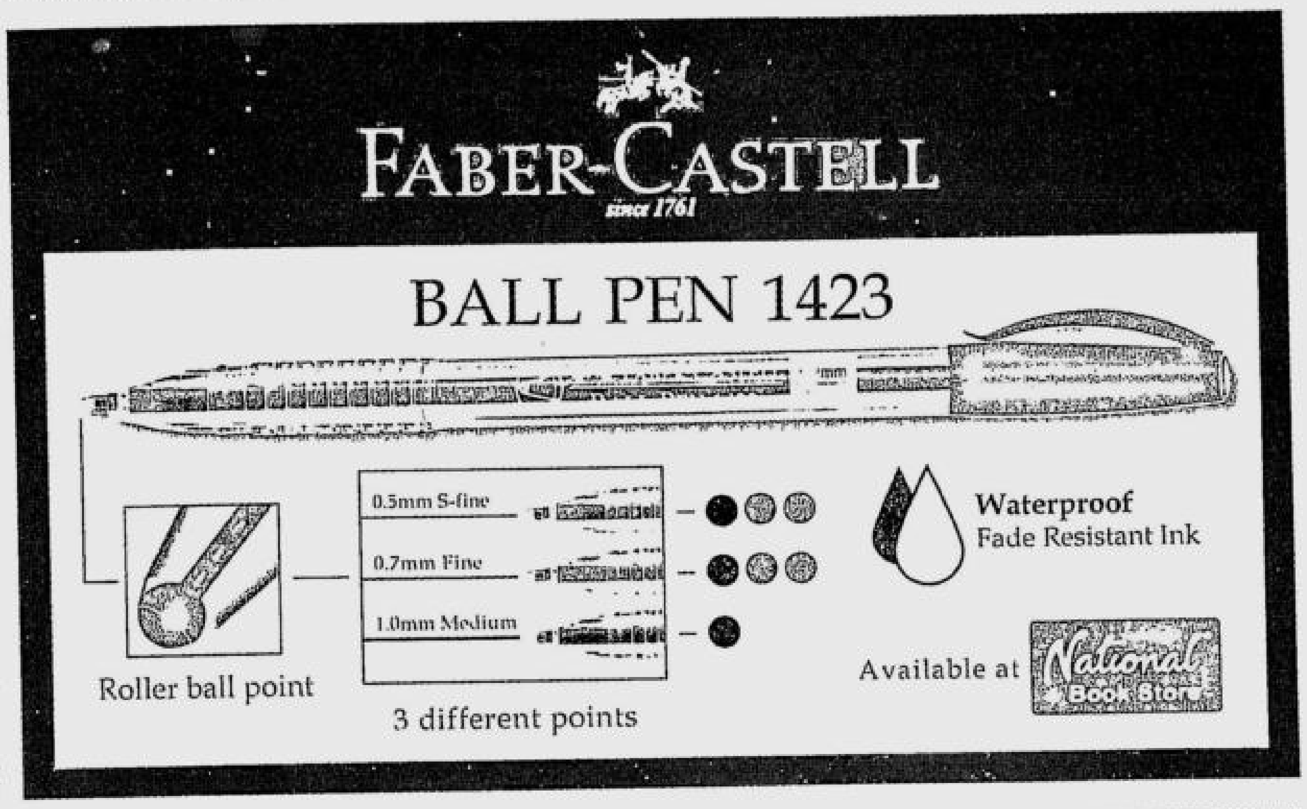
Lory and Jesse got married in 1968 and tried to eke out a living from the Corpus family's photography business. In 1974, with business down, they joined the Corpus brothers' exodus to Mindanao, then touted as the "land of promise."

Sure enough, they found a good market for photo services in Marbel where they settled. In Negros, they found people to be elitist, tending to look down on those of poor origin. In Mindanao, they felt no discrimination. Jesse and brother Jose soon began to be regarded as one of the best in their field in that part of South Cotabato.

Jesse soon put up his own Jess Studio which thrived for three years until overhead expenses started eating too much into revenues. In time they settled at Santo Niño Poblacion, where many of

MONEY/ B2-3

CITI LAUNCHES MAUNLAD AWARD
The Citi Foundation launches the "Masikap" award, given to someone who has started a microbusiness that has become a reliable source of income for a family. Winners of the Citi Microentrepreneur awards are chosen based on various criteria, which include a 100-percent repayment rate (of any microfinance loan obtained), employment generation, sales turnover, rate of reinvestment and savings. Photo shows some members of the 2007 Citi Microentrepreneur of the Year board of judges: Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Stacey Morse, Tessie Sy-Coson, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr., Jennilyn Antonio (2006 MOTY Maunlad national winner), Citi country officer Sanjiv Vohra, Sandy Prieto (representing Marixi Rufino-Prieto), Lance Gokongwei, Manny Esguerra



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Advanced Contact Solutions Inc.
ACS is one of the pioneers in the Philippine contact center industry. The company was organized in 1996. Its first facilities were completed in 1997, and the company started commercial operations in 1998. ACS provides business process outsourcing, customer service, financial services, inbound direct sales and other contact center services to its clients both local and abroad. ACS adds value to its clients' business by managing communications with the latter's customers, building trust & drawing loyalty through total customer satisfaction.

ALORICA PHILIPPINES
Alorica Philippines provides call center management services to both local and US markets. Alorica's local experience covers the telecommunications, consumer food, banking, and pharmaceutical industries where service levels and response times are most critical. The company's US clients are Fortune 500 companies in the PC manufacturing, networking and in the consumer electronics industry. They provide customer service and technical support to their customers through voice, email and chat consistently meeting if not exceeding service levels. In total, the call center employs close to two thousand employees and services more than 1 million transactions every month through different channels.

AMBERGRIS SOLUTIONS
Ambergris Solutions began commercial operations in 2001 with a vision to provide exceptional customer care services from the Philippines. The company has grown rapidly since, expanding both physically and in terms of its competencies – integrating complex call center work as well as back office processes into its service portfolio. Ambergris Solutions now operates three contact centers and its own dedicated training facility in thriving business districts in Manila. The company is recognized as a pioneer not only in the Philippine call center industry but also acknowledged as a key player in the global outsourcing stage. Most recently, international industry leader TELUS International, Inc. a wholly-owned subsidiary of Canadian telecommunications giant TELUS Corporation, has invested in Ambergris, increasing its strength, knowledge, and capability, as well as clearly demonstrating its growing global reputation.

APAC CUSTOMER SERVICES INC.
APAC Customer Services, Inc is a leading provider of customer interaction solutions for market leaders in financial services, insurance, telecommunication, health care and logistics. APAC partners with its clients to deliver customer solutions that enhance bottom line performance. It pioneered the field of outsourced customer relationship marketing. And today, it is one of the largest firms of its kind — the most driven to excel in providing solutions that produce success. The company began operating in Chicago and grew to four call centers in just four years. In 1998, the company acquired ITI Marketing Services, Inc., a leader in customer capture and care solutions. With this purchase, APAC had become the nation's largest teleservices firm with over 14,000 workstations.

ASIATYPE, INCORPORATED
Asiatype Inc. is one of the leading electronic data publishing, digital imaging and prepress solutions providers in the country. Established in January 1989 by a team of French and Filipino entrepreneurs, it is envisioned to become one of the most successful companies in the industry focused on providing total solutions for critical projects demanding extremely high quality output, quick turnaround time, dependable service and the best value for clients' money. From a humble yet very resolute team of around a dozen employees, Asiatype's workforce has grown to over two hundred elite personnel and has continually expanded its clientele in the Philippines, extending its service area coverage to neighboring Asian countries and even as far as the USA, Europe and Australia.

ASCEND ASIA
Ascend Asia is one of the fastest growing sales and marketing service providers catering to both national and international corporations, suppliers and producers. Ascend Asia's leadership in the industry and strong management, combined with its impressive track record of growing client businesses are the pillars of the company's operations. Ascend Asia's partnerships are focused on strategic alignment, growing businesses, delivering key performance indicators, innovation, customer and channel penetration, reliable technology, communication tools and all sales and marketing programs.

BRANDERS.COM
Branders.com is the leading online promotional products company in the world serving over 34 countries. It started in 1999 with an experienced management team and the support of some of the leading venture capital firms in the Unites States, Branders proved to be an early success story. Branders' unique "high tech, high touch" approach combining cutting-edge technology and top quality sales representatives proved to be a powerful driver of growth.

CONVERGYS
Convergys Corp., the global leader in customer care services and ranked as one of America's Most Admired Companies by Fortune Magazine for five consecutive years, is a multinational organization employing over 65,000 people in 64 customer contact centers and other offices in US, Canada, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. The company serves Fortune 500 companies around the world in telecommunications, Internet, cable and broadband services, technology, financial services, and other industries in more than 60 countries. It is the global leader in billing, employee care, and customer care service. Its revenues are in excess of $2.5 billion.

DMCI HOMES
DMCI Homes is the country's only triple A builder-developer that provides young upwardly mobile families with modest income with high-quality homes in fully serviced, centrally located communities. DMCI has not only built structures or building, it has also built some of the most prestigious and recognized landmarks around the country. DMCI is behind the construction of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the Makati Shangri-la Hotel, Ayala Tower One, Oakwood Premier and even Rockwell Center. The company's achievements aren't limited to the Philippines, as DMCI was also the lead project contractor for the Grand Palace of the Sultan of Brunei.

ePERFORMAX
ePERFORMAX Contact Centers Philippines offers a unique model for clients interested in pursuing business process offshore solutions for significant cost savings and improved value for every dollar invested in their customer contact center or back office processing services. ePERFORMAX is an award winning contact center best known for its Performance MaximizationTM Model which was developed to serve as the foundation for the training and processes they have created to ensure their management team is ready, willing and able to maximize performance for each of their clients. ePERFORMAX Contact Centers offers services and solutions that meet and exceed high-performance customer relationship and business process outsourcing requirements.

eTELECARE GLOBAL SOLUTIONS
eTelecare International, Inc. and Phase 2 Solutions, Inc., two of the world's leading call center outsourcers, are now jointly known as eTelecare Global Solutions. The companies, announced the name change as part of a broader strategy of offering clients location-independent solutions. eTelecare Global Solutions has more than 30 clients and revenues of over $125 million. The company has 11 call centers, 4 in the Philippines and 7 in the US, with a total of more than 8,000 employees. Together, the companies have won a combined 19 industry awards including four consecutive Best Outsourcer Awards at the International Call Center Management Conference & Exhibition. Recently, eTelecare was awarded by the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines as The Employer of the Year. This proves that we only offer the optimum to our employees

GERRY'S GRILL
It started with Mr. Gerry Apolinario, whose passion for food and sharing with family and friends urged him to establish Gerry's Grill on February 14, 1997. Gerry's Grill boasted of a menu packed with scrumptious food ranging from grilled seafood, Filipino and Asian favorites, and tastefully prepared beermates and pica-pica Gourmets and gourmands came with families in groups of friends and colleagues, and a lot of couples; and whether male or female, some event went solo for a relaxing time at the bar. With its tropical motif, extensive collection of music, accommodating service, affordable prices, delicious food and popular drinks, Gerry's Grill spelled the equation for steady success and rapid expansion in the restaurant business. Gerry's Grill for has now conquered different gimmick hotspots not only in Metro Manila but in the entire Philippines and even in the United States.

IBM BUSINESS SERVICES, INC.
Being IBM's leading BTO delivery center in the Asia Pacific region, IBM Business Services, Inc. (IBS) is a huge driver of IBM clients' success. IBM Business Services began in 2004 with only 100 employees when IBM acquired Procter & Gamble's shared service center in Manila. Today, over 1,200 IBS professionals are dedicated to giving best-in-class Human Resources (HR) and Finance and Accounting (F&A) services to different IBM subsidiaries and large multinational corporations worldwide, such as Procter & Gamble, Kodak, Avon, CVS, and Lenovo, among others. Because of its mindset, its culture, and, ultimately, its people, IBS has contributed to IBM's recognition as the No. 1 Global Outsourcing Company for 2006 by the International Association of Outsourcing Professionals (IAOP)

IBM DAKSH BUSINESS PROCESS SERVICES PHILIPPINES, INC.
IBM Daksh, a wholly owned company of IBM Corporation – hailed by BusinessWeek as the 3rd Most Valuable Brand in 2006 and the 8th largest corporation in the world – is a leading and multi-awarded provider of Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) solutions with over 20,000 employees spread out across its India and Philippine operations centers. Established as a result of the acquisition of Daksh eServices by IBM Corporation in 2004, IBM Daksh provides a variety of customer care solutions and was heralded as the "Contact Center Vendor of the Year" in Asia Pacific by Frost and Sullivan (2006)

ICT GROUP
ICT Group is a leading globally integrated supplier of customer relationship management (CRM) solutions. It provides a comprehensive suite of sales, service and marketing solutions designed to help clients identify, acquire, retain, service, measure and maximize the lifetime value of their customer relationships. More than 12,000 ICT Group employees at over 40 contact centers in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, Mexico, the Caribbean and the Philippines support domestic and multinational corporations and institutions, primarily in the financial services, insurance, telecommunications, healthcare, information technology, media, energy and hospitality industries. ICT's diversified suite of CRM solutions, combined with our value-added focus and flexible near-shore and offshore operations, provides clients with optimal scalability and choice.

INTERNATIONAL SPECIALTY CONCEPTS, INC. (ZARA)
International Specialty Concepts, Inc. is a subsidiary of Stores Specialists, Inc., a member of Rustan's Group of Companies (RGOC). The company is the exclusive distributor of the Spanish clothing brand ZARA in the Philippines catering to men, women, and kids. Established in 2005, the store has now three branches located at Rockwell, Glorietta and Shangri-la, and expands more within the key fashion cities in the country. With its unique and high energy business, the company aims to move fashion and lifestyle forward.

ISOPHARMA INC.
Isopharma was incorporated in March 2001 as a division of GB to promote the products of Danlex, Stiefel, Henkel, 3M Phils, Mega and Hovid. In July 2003, a Ispharma was spun off GB and a new management team took over. The company then started to serve new clients like MeadJohnson Nutritionals and AstraZeneca. Isopharma provides solutions to the BPO needs of its clients. Isopharma envisions itself to be the preferred, firs-line choice BPO solutions provider for pharmaceutical companies already operating or planning to operate in the Philippines

LANDCO PACIFIC CORPORATION
Landco Pacific Corporation is a major, multi-product real-estate development firm engaged in high-end residential resorts, leisure farms, first home residential developments, shopping centers and commercial business districts (CBDs) and memorial parks. Founded in 1990 by Alfred Xerez-Burgos, Jr., the company started in the planning and management of an estimated 80 development projects for some of the country's major property developers, such as the Tutuban Center, Filinvest Festival Mall and Fort Bonifacio Global City. Its first development project was Canyon Woods Residential Resort, which revolutionized the second-home industry. Known for its ingenuity and innovativeness, Landco introduced Peninsula de Punta Fuego, which has become a benchmark for a seaside residential resort.

LBP SERVICE CORPORATION
LBPSC was organized and incorporated in October 1996 primarily to provide quality staffing and other human resource services to different business organizations nationwide. The LBPSC, as an independent service contractor, has the organizational capability and management competence backed by adequate financial resources and sufficient capitalization in the forms of tools, materials and office facilities to meet the demands and challenges of the highly competitive service industry. As the company's assets have skyrocketed in value, so has the number of assigned contracted personnel and the clients who patronize the services of LBPSC since its incorporation in 1996. The company's Board of Directors and Executive Officers are composed of distinguished and highly competent human resource professionals, finance specialists, and administrative officers who are past and present officers of Land Bank

MAGSAYSAY MARITIME CORPORATION
The Magsaysay Group has been committed to the development of human resources for over 25 years, and is a leading maritime human resource organization in the Asia-Pacific region. Established in the Philippines, Magsaysay provides the highest quality skilled personnel for major companies in the maritime transport and leisure industries. Magsaysay maintains offices in key centers to assure customer access to the best international workforce. Offices have also been established in New York, Tokyo, Singapore, Vancouver and London to service their customers' needs.

MANPOWER, INC.
Manpower, Inc. (NYSE: MAN) is a world leader in the employment services industry; creating and delivering services that enable its clients to win in the changing world of work. The $18 billion company offers employers a range of services for the entire employment and business cycle. Manpower's worldwide network of 4,400 offices in 73 countries and territories enables the company to meet the needs of its 400,000 clients per year, including small and medium size enterprises in all industry sectors, as well as the world's largest multinational corporations

MARIE-FRANCE GROUP OF COMPANIES
Marie-France Bodyline International, Inc Facial Care Centre, MF & FCC For Men and Svenson International are renowned internationally in the service-oriented business with branches throughout Europe and Asia. The companies specialize in introducing and utilizing technologically advanced techniques in slimming, skin care and hair restoration that are proven safe and effective over the years. Pacific Asian Advertising Specialists Inc. is our in-house advertising agency which is primarily responsible for producing creative, unique and sales-effective advertising and promotional materials

MEGAWORLD CORPORATION
Megaworld pioneered in urban townships built around a live-work-play concept such as Eastwood City, home to the first and most successful information technology park in the country. Eastwood City laid out the blueprint for the company's ongoing mega-projects in Metro Manila: Forbes Town Center in Bonifacio Global City, McKinley Hill in Fort Bonifacio, Newport City at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City, Cityplace in Binondo, Manila and Manhattan Garden City at the Araneta Cubao, Quezon City. In the last 17 years, Megaworld has launched more than 200 residential buildings, office towers, commercial centers and a hotel.

METROPOLITAN BANK & TRUST COMPANY
The Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company (Metrobank) was established by a group of businessmen on September 5, 1962 at the Wellington Building in Binondo, Manila. The Central Bank, on April 1977, authorized Metrobank to operate a Foreign Currency Deposit Unit (FCDU). On August 1981, Metrobank was authorized to operate as a universal bank. After more than 40 years, Metrobank has established numerous subsidiaries, which include Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation, Philippine Savings Bank, Philippine AXA Life Insurance Corporation, and various Metro Remittance offices in different parts of the world.

MILES & LEVELS PHILIPPINES, INC.
Miles & Levels Philippines, Inc. (M&L) was established in 1988. It is a young and dynamic organization, composed of aggressive and creative professionals, envisioned to excel in the field of marketing consumer and industrial products. Building brands has always been a corporate direction. SUN-GARD, AUTO-GARD, KOMY, HIGH FIVE and HANNSTAPE are precedents of products and services to come. M&L has an established nationwide distribution network. It services major department stores, supermarkets, automobile dealers and after-market, hardware, institutional and industrial customers. Since 1996, it has been listed in the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) as one of the Philippines TOP 3000 Corporations

NETSUITE
NetSuite has chosen the Philippines as a key location for the export of services to its customers worldwide. As a major provider in ERP and Financial software, having access to a key labor and education base had been crucial for NetSuite. The Manila NetSuite offices deliver and manage resources for customers globally, which include ERP, CRM and E-Commerce Technical Support, Customer Service, Customer Management, consultation and implementation for Professional Services, Software Quality Assurance, and other SG&A. The Manila offices are responsible in ensuring the delivery of all these services to NetSuite customers around the world like San Mateo, Toronto, India, etc.

PEOPLESUPPORT
PeopleSupport, co-founded by Lance Rosenzweig in 1998, was built on his vision for the next generation of customer care. With the advent of the Internet, Lance saw the opportunity that companies now had to interact with their customers through many more communication channels-voice, email, web collaboration/live text chat, and self-service. However, there was a support this interaction and manage all the contact information. Lance created PeopleSupport around the need to address this void in multi-channel customer care. PeopleSupport emerged as the innovator and leader in outsourced online customer care—e-mail, web collaboration and live text chat. It then integrated voice and self-service with the addition of our state-of-the-art global call centers to provide a full customer care solution.

PJ LHUILLIER GROUP OF COMPANIES' (PJLGC)
PJ Lhuillier Group of Companies' history is directly linked to the history of Cebuana Lhuillier Pawnshop. The company was established by French Consul to the Philippines Henry Lhuillier in 1935 By 1987, the company pursued nationwide expansion. It adopted the trade name Cebuana Lhuillier. In April 1989, the company was incorporated and named P. J. Lhuillier, Inc. Over the years, the company ventured into other lines of businesses and has been referred to as the PJ Lhuillier Group. By the turn of the century, the PJ Lhuillier Group has become synonymous with financial and insurance services, retail and trade, property and resort management, and communications and information technology, together with its main business of providing access to funds to the ordinary Filipinos through its pawnshop network

SL TEMPS
SL Temps, a division of Searchers and Staffers Corp., caters to client needs such as project hiring, manpower service contracting, human resources and payroll outsourcing, promo and merchandizing, and hiring for short-term or on-call assignments. It started operation in November 1995 and have been servicing top players in various industries such as telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, life and non-life insurance, banking and credit card, information technology, call centers, food and beverage, educational institutions, manufacturing, courier and logistics, apparel, and appliance and cosmetic retailing.

SITEL PHILIPPINES
The new Sitel is a leader in the Business Processing Industry (BPO). Formed by the merger of ClientLogic and Legacy SITEL, this new global organization provides world- class solutions from on-shore, nearshore, and offshore locations across 145 contact centers in 28 countries. With more than 65,000 employees, Sitel excels in providing local and multi-national customer interaction as it supports a list of over 440 clients. Being one of the biggest in the Business Processing Outsourcing business across the globe, Sitel has become the call center with the widest variety of services to offer today – from customer care to back office processing services – the company ensures strategic insight and return on the investment to its partner clients.

SM-MART
SM had its beginnings in 1958, when Mr. Henry Sy, Sr. opened the first Shoemart store in Rizal Ave. in downtown Manila. The store boasted of quality merchandise, innovative visual display, and creative salesmanship. Through these factors, SM was able to gain a loyal following of customers, which opened doors for its growth. The company expanded its shoe store chain in the sixties to accommodate the increasing demands of its customers. With its natural expansion into Ready-To-Wear and soft goods, SM marked many milestones with the opening of several stores across the country. Today SM Department Store has grown into a dynamic group of stores which lead the pack in the retail industry.

SPI TECHNOLOGIES
SPi Technologies, wholly-owned by ePLDT, is a leading global business process outsourcing (BPO) provider, with numerous locations across North America, Europe, and Asia. Together with ePLDT Ventus, it has 11,650 employees worldwide. Building on its 26-year history of customer service and PLDT's operating scale and financial strength, it is one of the largest full service BPO companies in the world servicing the following markets: banking, financial Services and insurance, government, health care, information technology, legal, media, not-for-profit organizations, publishing, retail and travel.

SYKES ASIA
Sykes is the leading and first-recognized support center in the Philippines that provides customer relations solutions to Fortune 500 leading international companies in the areas of electronics and telecommunication, information and technology, retail and consumer products, financial and customer service. The company specializes in providing flexible, high quality and customer support outsourcing solutions with the emphasis on inbound technical support and customer service. Headquartered in Tampa, Florida, with customer contact management centers throughout the world, Sykes provides its services through multiple communication channels encompassing phone, e-mail, web and chat, utilizing its integrated onshore/offshore global mode. Sykes serves its clients through two geographic operating segments: the Americas (United States, Canada, Latin America, India and the Asia Pacific Rim) and EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa).

TELEDEVELOPMENT
TeleDevelopment has been assisting clients with global contact center solutions since 1991. TDS offers a complete line of training solutions for agents and supervisors of inbound and outbound centers, in both telesales and customer service skills.

The company specializes in the recruitment and placement of domestic and international candidates for all levels of management positions within the customer contact industry. It has successfully assisted clients in Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, Philippines, UK, United Arab Emirates and more.

TELEPERFORMANCE PHILIPPINES
Teleperformance group of companies, one of top 5 CRM (customer relationship management) leaders in the world with over 46,000 workstations distributed throughout a network of 269 call/contact centers in 42 countries across Europe, America, Australia and Asia. The rich client and project database of SR. Teleperformance is readily available for all its offices worldwide, which provides Teleperformance Philippines the distinct advantage of tapping these resources and wealth of experience when formulating strategies to meet objectives for its clients. Parallel efforts implemented for similar industries in other countries can serve as models in designing local and international campaigns.

TELETECH CUSTOMER MANAGEMENT CENTER PHILIPPINES, INC.
TeleTech is a leading global business services company that delivers and manages large, complex solutions, and offers complete solutions for the entire customer lifecycle – from front to back-office outsourced solutions including customer management, BPO, and database marketing services measurably enhance clients' core customer management processes. TeleTech's ability to create innovative strategies, combined with its global technology platform and delivery infrastructure, helps clients increase revenue, lower costs and retain their customers around the world. More than 2,000,000 consumers from over 40 countries, in 29 different languages, interact with TeleTech daily – in 75 Customer Management Centers in 18 countries.

TNT EXPRESS WORLDWIDE (PHILS.) INC.
TNT is a world leading provider of express delivery services, logistics supply chain solutions and mail services. TNT Express offers unique integrated pan-European and domestic delivery services. It is also the number one logistics provider to the automotive industry and key provider of logistics services to the electronics and pharmaceutical sectors. With over 159,000 employees worldwide, the company caters to more than 200 countries, with an extensive network of 43 aircrafts. Its service coverage extends to Africa, Asia, Australia, North and South America. TNT exclusively handles all local, regional and pan-European road and air express services in all major European countries.

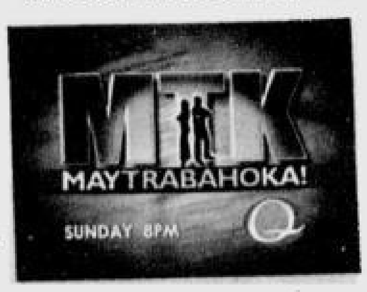
TRENDWORKS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION (SKECHERS)
Trendworks International Corporation is the exclusive Philippine distributor of global lifestyle footwear leader – Skechers USA. With a well-established nationwide distribution network for its products and an aggressive marketing and business development approach, the company continues to experience unprecedented growth. Trendworks International Corporation continually looks for highly talented individuals and driven individuals to reinforce its ever-growing team of professionals.

VISION-X INC.
VXI began operating as a provider, of outsourced contact services in the ethnic, in-language market segment. While it continues to be unique in service of all ethnic market segments, its mainstream English-speaking service dominates the total project portfolio today. Since its inception, it has fielded millions of customer interactions in many languages of projects for both large multinationals and small local clients. It was named as the fastest growing outsourcer in the US (Rising Star rankings), with over 2000 seats and 5 centers around the globe. VXI operates world-class centers in the US, Philippines and China. Its integrated inbound and outbound contact centers support customer service, sales and e-mail solutions for its blue ship clients.

WEST CORPORATION
Founded in 1986 and headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska, West Corporation is a billion dollar organization with over 28,000 employees located throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. West is a leading provider of outsourced communications for many of the world's largest companies. These companies rely on West to help them grow their business through its superior inbound, outbound, interactive, internet, collections, and worldwide conferencing services. Clients include some of the most respected names in a wide range of industries including: financial services, telecommunications, utilities, heath care, pharmaceutical, insurance, and consumer packaged goods. In 2003, increased business demands from one of West's existing clients prompted the opening its newest international contact center in Manila, West Contact Services, Inc.

Find a career in here!

IN COOPERATION WITH



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Money from nuts is not peanuts

From page B2-1

Jesse's customers live.

All this time, Lory was keeping house—trying to be a supportive wife and good mother to their brood of six. At the back of her mind, though, she was constantly thinking how she could help Jesse provide for their growing family of six children.

She found the inspiration in peanuts, which she always liked and knew that most other people do too. One day in 1984, she bought sugar-coated peanuts and took a good look. As she is a good cook, Lory thought she could try doing it too.

She recounts her first experiments with peanuts.

In a carajay, she boiled 3/4 kg peanuts with 1/2 kg sugar and 2 cups water. She stirred and stirred the mixture until the liquid evaporated.

Everything went wrong at first. The coating wouldn't stick, or wasn't dry enough. Or the product was too lumpy or unsightly. Unfazed, she persisted. After she had exhausted about 10 kg of peanuts in countless kitchen bouts, she perfected her recipe.

Her first buyer was a school nearby. The cellophane-packed peanuts were sold out on the first day. Every week, the school ordered a bigger volume. In a few weeks, Lory was delivering the items to others schools, then to a grocery store.

Eventually, her kitchen could no longer accommodate production. A 53-sq.m. workplace was built next to their home at the cost of P10,000. As she diversified her peanut line, food processing equipment were obtained. A big motorized sheller was designed by Jesse and fabricated by a welding shop. More scalers, rollers and vats were added. The workforce grew too. When Lory had four people working for her, she bought her first delivery vehicle—a Suzuki 125 motorcycle. By then, Jesse had set aside photography to take charge of raw material purchasing and product marketing.

LORY Corpus

JESSE Corpus

In 1991, the couple thought of getting an "honest-to-goodness delivery van." Lory recalls agonizing over the decision before finally putting up a down payment of P120,000 for an L300. The vehicle allowed them to go for all-out expansion to Davao City.

More diversification and growth followed. In 1994, they put up a bakery near their home. With P120,000 borrowed from a bank, they built a shop, acquired a wood-fired brick oven and other equipment, and hired a master baker and two assistants.

Within the year, tragedy struck, which was quickly followed by another.

It was in July 1995 when the bakery was razed to the ground. Alas, the bakery had not been insured!

Meanwhile, the bank loan had to be amortized. All income from the business had to go to loan repayments.

And within two months—another blow!

Jesse was driving the van when he sideswiped a tricycle. A young boy, 13 years old, sustained multiple fractures. The cost of hospitalization was P70,000. Jesse paid up, of course.

To meet their mounting financial obligations, the couple had to sell the van. The motorcycle had to go, too.

In the face of the double whammy, Lory did the only thing she felt she could do—go on.

"As long as we can buy peanuts and process them, we can always make some money." Selling was not a problem—never was. Their network of loyal customers was intact.

That was over 10 years ago. The bank loan had been paid in

MONEY/ B2-4

Ang dalagang Pilipina
parang bituin sa umaga...
PHOENIX LAND
DEVELOPER / LANDOWNER
LAS HACIENDAS

A DAY AT LAS HACIENDAS

This weekend, Phoenix Land [illegible] opens the gates of Las Haciendas to the media so that they can experience how life could be away from the frenetic pace of the city

An entire laid-back day amidst the glorious haciendas in Laurel, Batangas, awaits them– relishing the fresh air, the cool shade of bamboo and other fruit-bearing trees, and the soothing sounds of nature. Trekking, mud sliding, swimming, horseback riding and a spa treatment will take them to the five hacienda sites, where these activities, and much more will be available to those who choose to make Las Haciendas their home. Visitors will also be treated to a feast of dishes and delicacies unique to Laurel Batangas.

The tour will take them from Hacienda Cascada, which boasts of the magnificent Ambon-Ambon Falls, the perfect backdrop for quiet meditation or a relaxing massage, to the open spaces of Hacienda Verde, ideal for horseback riding and a haven for green thumbs. They will also get a glimpse of Hacienda Montaña, which is being developed for folks who can't seem to totally let go of the amenities of city life, and Hacienda Rio with the Antona River as background for hiking trails, fishing, biking, rappelling, rock climbing and camping. A trip further will take them to Hacienda Lagos, a part of the popular Taal Volcano lakeside community, where future residents can take advantage of the cool, clear waters and the fresh soft breeze as they go boating, sailing or exploring the great volcano of Taal.

A day with all these sights, sounds and activities is just a taste of how glorious life can be at Las Haciendas, no matter which hacienda you choose to build your home at. Imagine how your very own weekend refuge or your home away from the city could be.

What could be more refreshing...for the body and for the spirit as well?

Crystal clear spring waters to splash in and wash away the cares and worries of life in the city...like no other spa or salon can...ahh...now, take your body where your mind has been all these years...

Experience nature in all its splendor... be one with Creation in all its glory...partake of the endless beauty that only nature can provide...at last, it's time you come home to Las Haciendas.

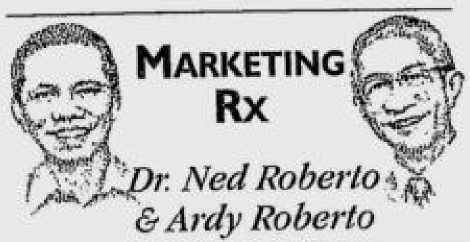
Mabuhay. Magbuhay Probinsya.

Preserving the values and traditions of typical Filipino towns, Las Haciendas boasts of 342 hectares of 21st century masterplanned, mixed-use nature communities. Las Haciendas Evergreen Communities is located at Laurel, Batangas, Taal's next-door neighbor.

Call [illegible]

'Should we avoid using demographics in segmenting the market?'

'The reason why there are so many segmentation variables is because each will work in some cases but not in others'



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: WE NOTICE THAT FOR CONSUMER durables, the practice is to segment the market by demographics or socioeconomic variables. What about consumer non-durables or FMCGs (fast moving consumer goods)? Does this mean that segmenting the market for an FMCG should avoid using demographics and socioeconomic variables?

A: For certain consumer durables like real property and cars, it's true that the conventional practice is to segment by demographics and socioeconomic variables.

In real property marketing, for example, the prevailing practice is to segment by socio-eco classification and then by family life cycle stages. This has "worked" because the housing needs of the rich versus the middle class versus the poor differ. Within each socio-eco class, the same need differs at different stages of the family life cycle. When you're newly married and have no children yet, your housing requirement is simple (1 bedroom condo or a simple townhouse will do). But once you start raising children, that requirement shifts dramatically. And so on to the next stages.

With cars, the socio-eco segmentation has found ready and widespread application. At one time, Toyota produced and marketed three car models each specifically targeted toward a specific socio-eco class: Corolla for the middle class, Corona for the lower upper class or Class B, and Crown for the upper upper class or Class A car buyers.

That this segmentation approach has helped real property and car marketing does not necessarily mean that it will also work for other consumer durables. Even more, it does not follow that because demographics and socioeconomic variables serve the segmentation needs of consumer durables, then it will not apply to consumer nondurables. One of our research studies on consumer products offering a solution to the erectile dysfunction problem found that the other age segments of young adults and mature adults have needs for the product different from those of the post-mature adult segment. So here and in the specific case of a consumer nondurable, demographics or specifically age segmentation works.

The search for a fixed segmentation variable is misguided. The reason why there are so many segmentation variables is because each will work in some cases but not in others. So the key is to ask: "It worked for what?" What are we really after in segmenting a market?

For example, when we said that "segmenting the real property market by socio-eco classification and then by family life cycle stages has worked," let's repeat our question: "This has worked for what?" The simplest answer is to say that it has worked for what we were after in segmenting. And we were after identifying a segment or segments whose home buying behavior offers a source or sources for attaining our sales targets or for growing those sales figures.

There's another result we mentioned. We said we found that "the housing needs of the rich versus the middle class versus the poor differ." And we know that finding an unserved need means finding an opportunity for a new product. At the same time, a need may be served but not fully. That's an underserved need. It represents an opportunity for product improvement or a next generation product.

So these are the true targets of your segmenting. It's not to find out the segmenting variable or variables to use from one segmentation to the next and in the future. It's to locate a segment or segments: (1) whose product buying and using behavior will gain for us our targeted sales, and/or (2) whose need will open for us a new product intro opportunity when that need is still unserved, or a product improvement/next genearation product opportunity when the need is underserved. The correct strategic market segmentation then leads you to locate these sales-rich and growth-rich market segments.

Which segmentation variable will do this is a matter of your asking: "Which segment identifying variables have the most chance of locating such segments?" Then market research your short-listed segmenting variables to find out the most useful and powerful segment identifying predictors.

Those of you who have read the best-seller 2005 Blue Ocean Strategy book of Chan Kim and Renee Mauborgne will recognize the similarity of what we've said with Kim's "blue ocean" market segment and "red ocean" market segment. We realize that Kim avoided using the segmentation term but the book is essentially a market segmentation book. Look at his blue ocean definition: "A blue ocean is an uncontested market space where there is little or no competition." In contrast, a red ocean is a crowded market space where companies try to outperform each other in order to grab a greater share of existing demand and where increasing competition turns the water bloody."

In other words, the correct strategic segmentation can lead you to blue ocean market segments. The wrong segmentation will keep you under stress and pressure in red ocean market segments.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net. God bless!

Money from nuts . . .

From page B2-3

full a year after the double whammy. Jess Peanuts' products are selling as briskly as ever.

"No, we have not fully recovered," Lory says. But they are on their way there. She thinks all they need is enough capital to completely bounce back. After all, the market seems ready to buy all the items they can produce. The only problem is they can no longer sell to Davao without a delivery vehicle: it is four hours away.

The secret to successful peanut products is in the variety used, she reveals. For her, the best is the Imelda variety grown in the mountains of Sultan Kudarat by indigenous tribesmen. She likes buying from them because "they are impoverished and need the business badly."

She is extra careful of quality. Thus, she makes it a point to be always present during cooking. She also knows the value of good packaging and constantly tries to improve her packaging practices. She visits the malls to get new ideas for this.

Jess Peanuts was nominated to the 2005 Citygroup Masikap Awards by Kabalikat sa Maunlad na Buhay Inc. (KMBI), a microfinance institution from which Lory gets her small loans.

KMBI was impressed with the way Lory and Jesse picked themselves up after near collapse.

It seems that as long as peanuts sell like, well, peanuts, and as long as the entrepreneurial fire burns, Lory and Jesse's business is likely to keep thriving.

(Read more pluck and luck stories in "Dreamers, Doers, Risk-takers Part 3: The Micros That Roared" published by the UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries and the Small Enterprises Research and Development Foundation. For inquiries, call or e-mail the author at 928-7076 and myrna.co@up.edu.ph.)

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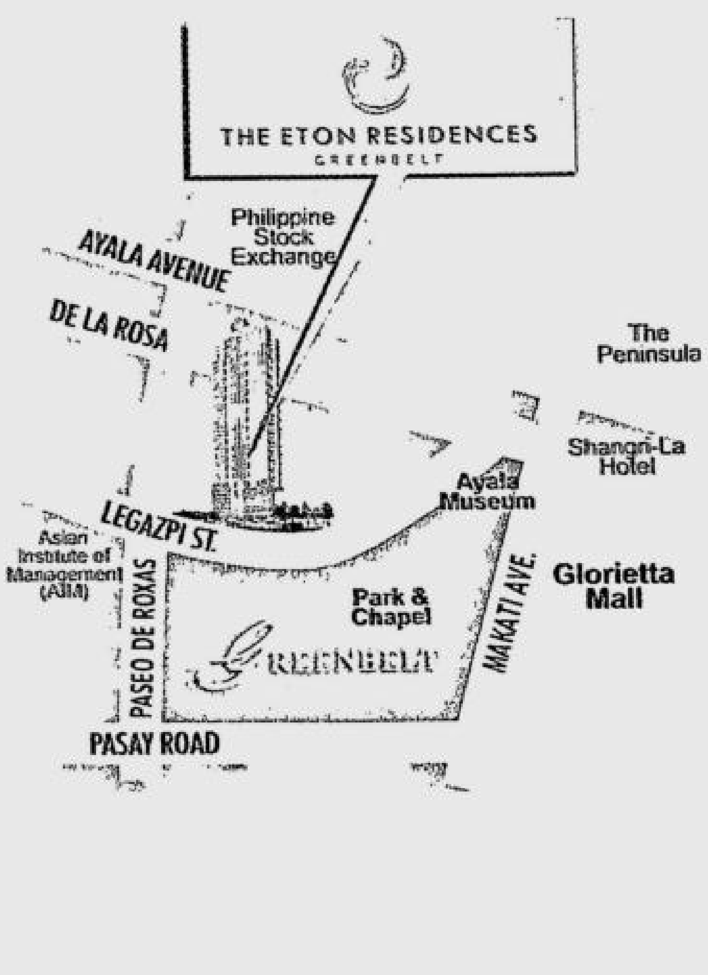

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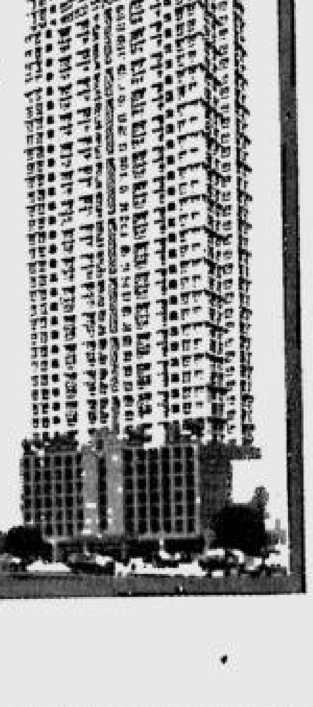

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Build brands that can last generations

Company's net worth rises with roster of its strong brands

By Karen V. De Asis

EVER WONDERED WHERE THE ALL-TIME favorite Filipino brands of your childhood and your parents' or even grandparents' generations are?

Ask today's young generation if they recognize these brands: Ma Mon Luk, Gregg shoes, Majestic Ham …

Ma Mon Luk was yesterday's casual family dining restaurant, replaced today by Jollibee and Chow King. Everybody used Gregg shoes in the previous generation; now Shoemart is the destination store for footwear. Goya, Chocnut, Cow Label dried beef, Reno liver spread, Majestic ham—have all been overtaken by brands like Kitkat, Hershey's, Swifts and Purefoods meat products. Sunquick and Julep, the most popular juice concentrates a few decades ago, have now been replaced by Magnolia and Selecta fruit juices. Alemars was the more popular bookstore many decades ago; today its National Bookstore.

When destination stores were not yet the trend, most families trekked to COD at least once a year for shopping and a bonus preview of the Christmas Nativity scene. Camay, Eskinol and Lyna cream were must-have personal care products while Happy Feet and the Ace black bags were the footwear and bag to wear. Today, these brands no longer enjoy the same top of mind recognition as they did in yesteryears. There is wisdom indeed in the saying "out of sight, out of mind."

But not all of the brands of the past have been relegated to oblivion or very minimal awareness. Some have become stronger through time—recalled and enjoyed not only by your parents' and grandparents' generations, but by your own generation and even by your kids' generation. Goldilocks and Max's fried chicken, notable in the previous generation remain to be in present times. San Miguel beer, faced with aggressive competition and a fragmented market, still remains with dominant brand awareness. These brands have remained in the consumers' consciousness because of sustained marketing efforts. Despite dominant brand awareness in one generation, they continue to build empathy for the brand from one generation to the next, never failing to regularly mount marketing campaigns. They continue to refresh the brand with new, exciting product extensions and execute dimensions of the value propositions in ways that are relevant to each generation. All these require marketing expense and over time these brands have not failed to allocate appropriate levels of marketing investments.

Brand as inheritance assets

Building and managing brands is often perceived as an expensive exercise. In many cases, it is dispensed with or deferred indefinitely. Always, it is resorted to only when competition gets tougher, sales is not as it usually was and when modern trade or new distribution channels demand marketing investments.

Few business owners look at brand building and management as a proactive way of developing legal assets that can literally be passed from one generation to the next as a source of revenue stream. Too few recognize that initial business success brought about by design like a breakthrough product or technology or simply through sheer luck needs to be sustained, if not further maximized. Many rest on their laurels and fail to capitalize the momentum and opportunity while maximizing growth. Here are some ways to help build strong brands that can be passed on from generation to generation.

Build, grow and sustain investments in a product portfolio that is the company's expertise. Quite a number of companies today feed their organization's value and growth through diversification and by buying up-and-coming brands with a rising number of consumers. Seemingly, a sensible strategy provided that the company has the expertise, resources and investments to further fuel the acquired brand's growth over time. Otherwise, funding for the acquisition is best put to use to continuously building the company's present roster.

A company's net worth increases with the number of strong brands in its roster or the number of brands it can build into a strong position, not by numerous products with mediocre performance in its stable.

Avoid an out of sight, out of mind scenario. Brand management is all about sustaining the brand's relevant presence in an otherwise highly competitive scenario. The abundance of product messages a consumer faces daily makes it difficult for one to remember a brand unless reminded frequently through media or through other sources of information that impact on one's daily routine or lifestyle. Thus, the rise of new forms of media—Internet, direct marketing, out-of-home advertising, lifestyle magazine formats, etc.

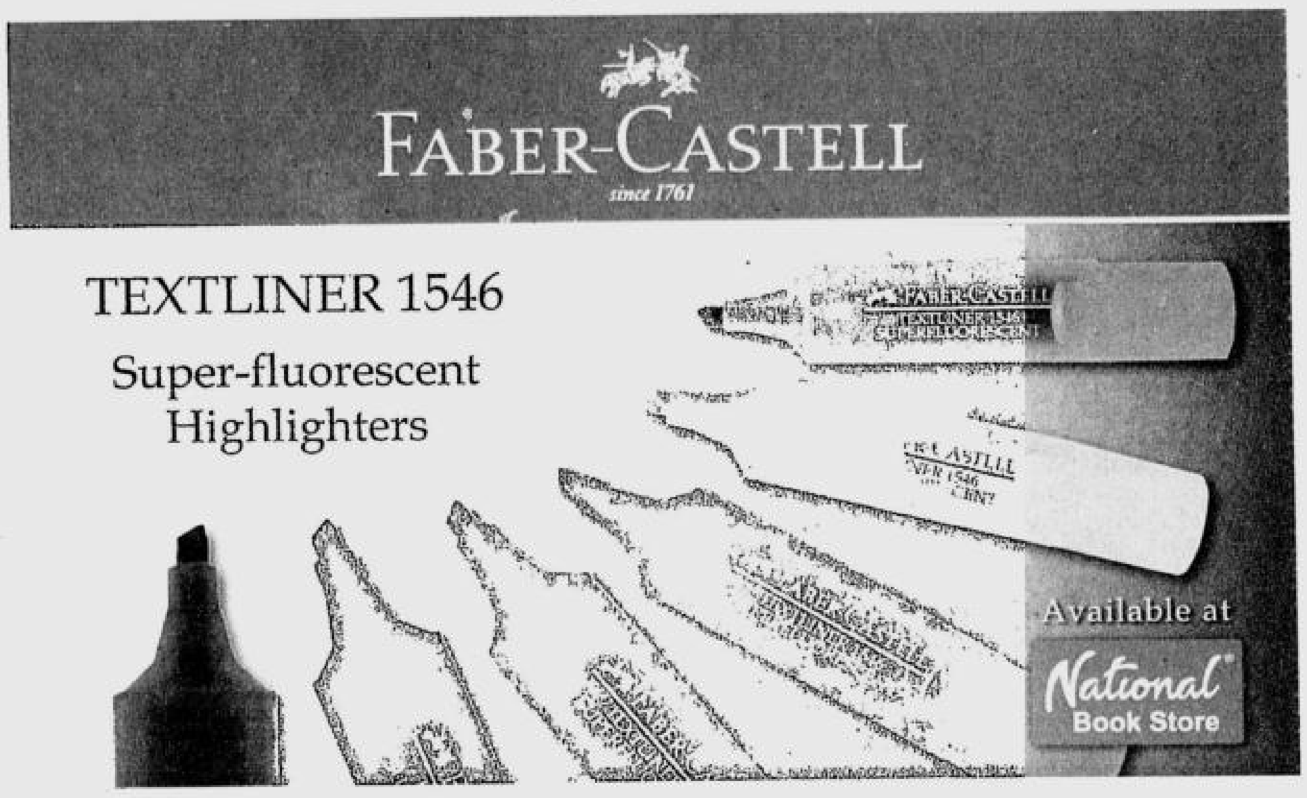
True, some previous generation brands are making a comeback with more refreshing product offers such as the almost moribund Araneta Center in the last decade has become the new place to be seen with the Gateway; the conservative black Ace bags turning into the stylish Ace Progres bags now sold at Rustans; and Happy Feet with its more flexible designs and styles, to name a few.

But it has become a tough ride winning back customers and gaining new ones with competition more aggressive and numerous. Araneta Center now has to contend with the Ayala, SM and Robinson's malls, Ace with Juicy and other branded casual bags and Happy Feet with Crocs and Havaianas.

Invest in product renewal. Make your consumers want to keep coming for more of your products or service. At proper intervals, introduce new but meaningful brand and category extensions, exciting packaging, new advertising, more rewarding consumer and trade promotions, etc. Just like any relationship and most specially with consumers, this should be spiced up in a timely, relevant manner.

Maintain expected quality at all times, if not improve it. Brands that have been around for quite some time have built the market's expectations. Thus, consumers are likely to know of any changes when it comes to product efficacy and delivery. It is not uncommon for brands today to change hands

BUILD BRANDS/ B3-2



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Excellent Price. El Jardin del Presidente 2 is an investment of exceptional value that can be yours for as low as ₱9,088 a month.

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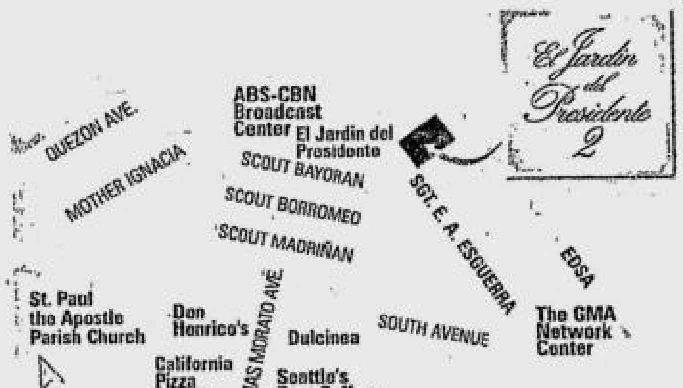

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Build brands that can last generations

From page B3-1

nonetheless, new brand owners must live with the caveat—a product has become a brand because it holds strong, unique and favorable associations among its loyal customers and therefore to change any part of the brand in a lesser way is a sure-fire way to destroying the brand over time.

Never fail to execute a value proposition that is meaningful from one generation to the next. The brand's original value proposition need not change unless market forces dictate it. But it must be refreshed, if needed, from one generation to the next, for the brand's target market. Goldilocks, for nearly 40 years capitalized on the Filipinos' caring and thoughtful values, never failing to take home goodies for family, relatives and friends. Today, this has been spiced up with pre-packed *bit-bit* bags that have become convenient for pressed-for-time, slow to decide buyers. Not to mention, Goldilocks offers *padala* packages that is specially a favorite for OFWs.

Go global. A fortified presence locally is the impetus to market beyond the domestic shores. The world has become borderless and the presence of many Filipinos in many countries provides the Filipino brand quite a number of opinion leaders and influencers who are likely to introduce the brand to other foreign nationalities. But then the brand acquires integrity even among the Filipino community and global Pinoy workers if there is pervasive awareness and use in its home country.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Get expert, seasoned help for brand building and brand management. Here lies a difference in outlook of a business owner who seriously believes in the importance of brand building and management as a driver to market demand and one who believes that having marketing personnel is testament to one's belief in branding. Not all marketing people are equipped to build brands because not many have been exposed to the rigor and opportunity in their past experience. Likewise, not all marketing people have experienced the full dimensions of managing a brand—most today, have had publicity and special events exposure (but this is only one aspect), some have had trade marketing (another aspect), others just do marketing communications (still one dimension of marketing), while some may have only experienced product concept development but without knowledge of implementation work, etc. Others are more partial to branding work in fast moving consumer goods or service or retail, etc.

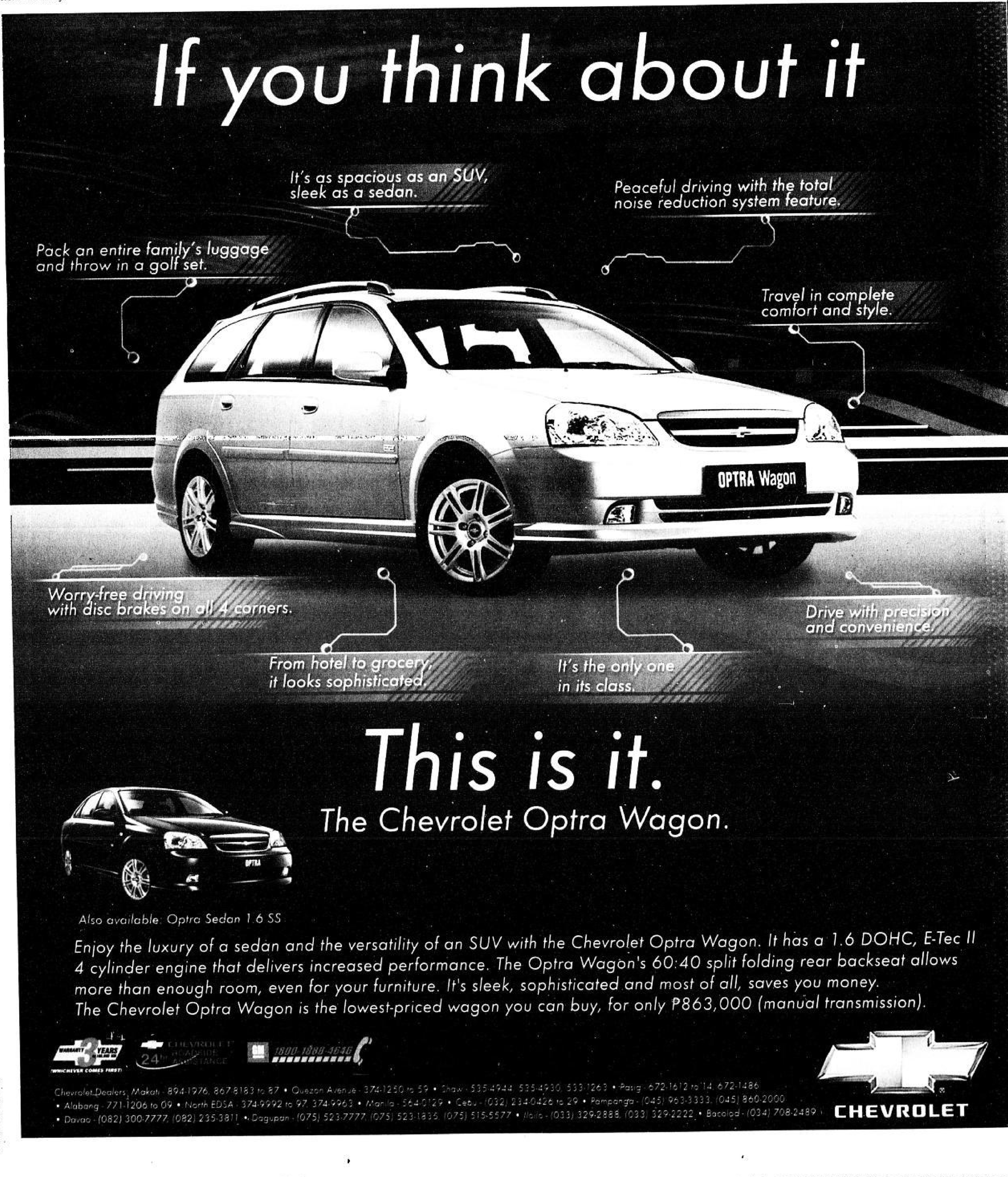
Where there is limited skill in marketing, the best approach is to augment with outside help by contracting the service of expert marketers on a limited basis. This way cost is contained due to less experimental mistakes, the marketing scenario is objectively assessed, the turnaround is faster and there is access to reputable networks. On the other hand, business owners must diligently make a cross-reference of the marketing consultant.

Company vs product brands

Fueling the company's net growth with a roster of reputable single brands may be costly in absolute terms and yet it remains to be more profitable than having one company brand assuming it is done correctly.

Having brands that are no. 1 or no. 2 in its category—mass or niche—adds great value to the organization and allows the company to flex its muscles when it comes to investments and resource management. A company brand must be seen as enhancing the value of a product by virtue of the perceived quality associated with the maker of the product. But there is greater value in building single brands augmented only by a company brand. For example, Procter & Gamble is known as a quality maker of household products. Its logo is an assurance of the kind of quality the product delivers. Procter & Gamble has several laundry products among them Tide, Mr. Clean, Perla and Ariel. The overall value of the combined gross sales of these four brands alone outweighs having only one company brand.

The author is a professor of Marketing and Brand Management at the De La Salle Professional Schools Graduate School of Business with email address at kdeasis@skyinet.net or www.karendeasis.com.


If you think about it
It's as spacious as an SUV, sleek as a sedan.
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Pack an entire family's luggage and throw in a golf set.
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OPTRA Wagon
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From hotel to grocery, it looks sophisticated.
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Also available: Optra Sedan 1.6 SS

Enjoy the luxury of a sedan and the versatility of an SUV with the Chevrolet Optra Wagon. It has a 1.6 DOHC, E-Tec II 4 cylinder engine that delivers increased performance. The Optra Wagon's 60:40 split folding rear backseat allows more than enough room, even for your furniture. It's sleek, sophisticated and most of all, saves you money.
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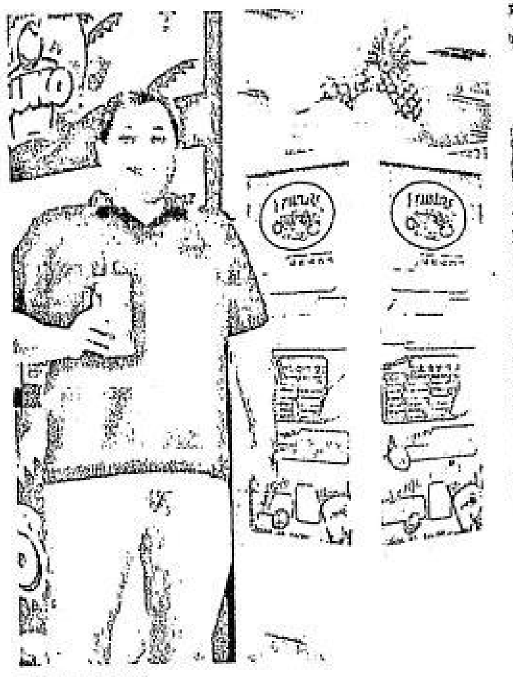
How a fruit cart can fulfill a man's dream

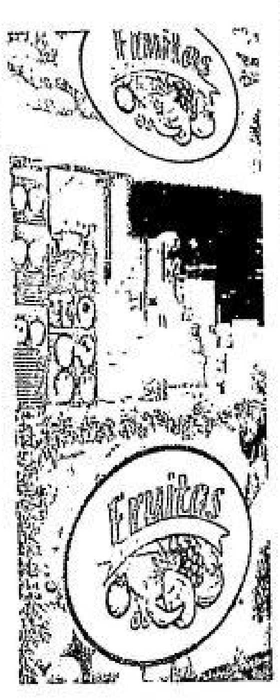
"ONE OF THE MOST WONDERFUL THINGS in life is waking up to the sleepy faces of your children. Not everyone has that luxury. I made sure I have it," Gilbert Sison happily states.

The forty-something father of four once held an important job in one of the country's oldest newspaper. Living all the way up in Antipolo, he'd wake up at 5 a.m. to get to work and get home at half past 10 when the kids were in bed.

Weekends would pass all too quickly and then it was the start of another work week.



GILBERT Sison



After more than 20 years of this life, Gilbert pulled the emergency brakes and got off the work train. But this was not done post-haste. Gilbert knew he had to have a fallback, a substantial one at that, because he had his family to provide for. Two of his children are in grade school, one in high school and the other in college. All four study at the Ateneo de Manila.

"Since my wife and I maintained a food stall in the Ateneo cafeteria for almost 10 years it was clear to me that the business I was going to get into will have to be about food too. I have the experience and I have the passion for the business. All I needed to find was the best food franchise I will invest my lifetime savings in."

"Ironically, it was a La Sallite who ended my quest for the perfect franchise," Gilbert, an Atenean, recalls. "I met Lester Yu of Fruitas and I liked his business model for his fresh fruit juice carts. After several meetings I got his Buko ni Fruitas franchise and put it up in St. Francis Square."

Gilbert's ROI (return on investments) happening in less than six months. He then put up Buko ni Fruitas at Pacific Star building in Makati; Fruitas & Buko ni Fruitas franchise in SM Pasig, a combined Fruitas and Buko ni Fruitas in Strata Building in Ortigas; and a newly opened Fruitas/Mango Farm outlet in Valero Street in Makati.

"It's one Fruitas franchise for every kid," says Gilbert. "Lester and I jokingly refer to my four Atenistas as Fruitas scholars. Getting all these Fruitas franchises is the best decision I have made as a husband and as a father.

"I now can wake up same time as my children. I have more time for them. I can play with them, talk to them and get to know them better. I no longer have to make the back breaking three-hour drive to work and another three-hour drive back home every day.

"Owning Fruitas franchises showed me the ins and outs of the cart business. I take time to study the true nature of owning a fruit shake cart. I go to the market to find out the prevailing prices of fresh fruits. I bother to find out how much milk, sugar and ice is needed to make a smoothie. When I go to the outlets I always check on the hygiene of my staff and the location. When I see the long lines, I know if my customers are getting impatient. Which is why I always tell my staff to prepare the shakes on a per order basis. It's not wise to get everyone's order and have them all waving their receipts at you—this can be very aggravating to both the customers and the staff.

"Eventually, I would like to put up my very own restaurant but right now life is what I want it to be," ends Gilbert.

For comments and suggestions, you may call 731-8886 or 0920-9797888.

RP's franchising industry readies international expo

THE BOOMING RETAIL AND service industry is putting up the country's biggest international franchise expo dubbed "Franchise 2007" at the World Trade Center Manila on July 6 to 8.

The expo, being organized by the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA), is designed to generate more business opportunities for new entrepreneurs and expanding enterprises and companies, including the growing number of returning overseas Filipinos and foreigners who are retiring in the Philippines.

"These people are bringing in dollars and buying residential units in masterplanned commercial areas where they can possibly start their own businesses or expand whatever enterprise they may have abroad," said PFA chair Bing S. Limjoco.

"And they know that the best and sure-fire way to get into business and succeed, especially in their golden years, is through franchising, where business concepts are backed by proven track record of profitability and stability," Limjoco explained.

She said Franchise 2007 would also help prospective local industry players to find their way into expanding overseas.

With hundreds of exhibitors of highly reputable names and innovative business concepts, Franchise Expo 2007 will provide participants with international and local networking, onsite marketing and sales, extensive promotions, and thousands of prospective clients who have decided to invest in a franchised business.

This 15th Franchise Expo is co-presented by PLDT Business Solutions, Seaoil and Coca-Cola, and supported by the Asia Pacific Franchise Confederation, the World Franchise Council, Department of Trade and Industry, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Philippine Retailers Association.

Last year, the Franchise Expo generated more than P200 million worth of businesses and almost 25,000 visitors, mostly from top and middle management.

This year's expo is expected to post a new record in visitor attendance based on the current local and global economic developments.

Now it's prepaid cards for online games

IN A MOVE TO MAKE THE GAME accessible to more Filipino gamers, Asian Media Development Group (AsianMedia) is launching a prepaid card system for Lineage II's Philippine servers allowing gamers to determine the amount of time they play Lineage II.

"For now, we're focusing on the Pay-to-Play (P2P) business model as opposed to the Free-to-Play (F2P) model because P2P games tend to attract more gamers who are prepared to commit to the game and thereby develop a sense of loyalty to the brand," says AsianMedia chief operating officer, Ronald Allan Aquino.

AsianMedia's move toward online games is welcome news for the Filipino gaming community which is hungry for quality online games.

AsianMedia's partnership with Korean gaming giant, NCsoft to distribute "Lineage II" in Southeast Asia opens doors for Filipino gamers to experience bigger and better games at their own terms.

Aquino comments, "Our extensive market research into local gaming behavior confirms that Pinoy gamers are ready, willing and eager to experience a higher caliber of gaming content."

Lineage II, the medieval fantasy MMORPG (Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Game) has drawn loyal fans worldwide to its combination of fantasy combat. Its unique social/political/economic power struggles developed through the community and by the in-game actions of individual gamers are anticipated to appeal especially to Filipinos.

Although most online gaming in the Philippines is concentrated within Metro Manila, AsianMedia will market Lineage II throughout the Philippines by tapping its existing distribution network for popular PC games like "Counter-strike" and "GuildWars" among Internet gaming cafés spread throughout the country.

"Lineage II has a unique community building component and it would not be farfetched to imagine competition among clans from different provinces as well as different countries like Malaysia and Singapore who will also be playing Lineage II from the same server," he continues.

"In terms of content, we also believe that Philippine gamers are willing to pay for superior quality game content, something which Lineage II is already known for throughout the world," adds Aquino.

Lineage II also features greatly improved third-person 3D graphics thanks to the Unreal Engine developed by Epic Games.

AsianMedia's research into Philippine online gaming behavior revealed that a growing segment of the gaming community is in their early to mid-20s and more likely to play online games that feature realistic characters. They also expressed a desire for games with spectacular graphics and more challenging content: Qualities which Lineage II delivers in spades.

"Although we're keeping our options open toward other types of online games in the future, we're confident that Philippine gamers will come to the world of Lineage II, decide to stay and experience the game of their life," concludes Aquino.

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR
FEDERAL Land Inc. bagged the "Developer of the Year" award from the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Association for its Marquinton Residences project in Marikina City. Federal Land's joint winner is Central Country Estate Inc., owned by Nestor Mangio, for its resort-type "The Lakeshore" development in San Fernando, Pampanga. Photo shows Federal president Alfred Ty, VP Noli de Castro, Nestor Mangio and Florentino Dulalia Jr. of Creba

AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK TWICE.

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MODEL	SRP	DOWNPAYMENT
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Optra Sedan 1.6 LS Automatic	₱ 786,000	₱ 79,000
Optra Sedan 1.6 SS Manual	₱ 793,000	₱ 80,000
Optra Sedan 1.6 SS Automatic	₱ 833,000	₱ 84,000
Optra Wagon 1.6 SS Manual	₱ 863,000	₱ 87,000
Optra Wagon 1.6 SS Automatic	₱ 903,000	₱ 91,000

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- Rear spoiler (for Chevrolet Optra Sedan 1.6 SS only)
- Roof spoiler (for Chevrolet Optra Wagon 1.6 SS only)
- Tonneau car & cargo net (for Chevrolet Optra Wagon only)

*For Chevrolet Optra Sedan 1.6 LS Manual
Promo ends on May 31, 2007. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1912, Series of 2007

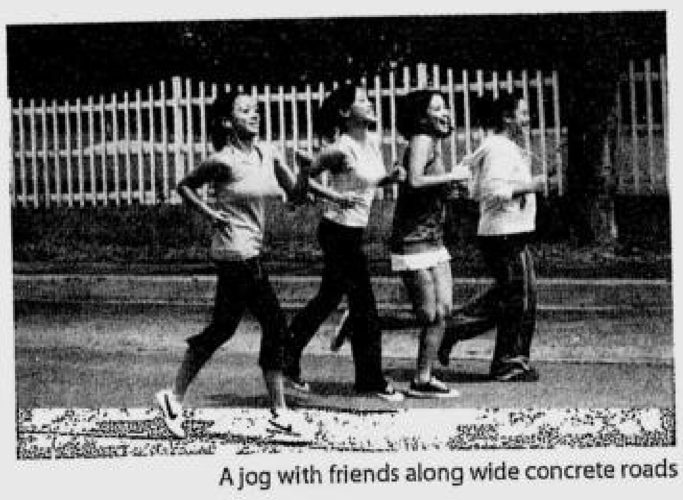
CHEVROLET

The Villages at LAKEWOOD CITY
CABANATUAN, NUEVA ECIJA

Where good living awaits . . .
in a landmark development of Sta. Lucia Realty

Novo Ecijanos no longer have to travel far to enjoy an exciting, convenient urban existence. Instead an urban, cosmopolitan lifestyle is coming to them!

STA. LUCIA REALTY AND DEVELOPMENT, INC., a name that is synonymous with innovation, quality, reliability and a commitment to addressing the needs of its buyers, is now offering The Villages at Lakewood City in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija.


A jog with friends along wide concrete roads

At The Villages in Lakewood City, Novo Ecijanos can invest in an entire lifestyle package that combines a safe, secure first family home attached to a first-rate subdivision and world-class commercial and shopping center.

"What makes The Villages at Lakewood City such a good deal is how it allows its very fortunate residents to come home to a place with all the excitement of an urban commercial and entertainment center, while at the same time offering them amenities for relaxation and recreation," says Ma. Carmina Sotto, EVP for Sales, Marketing and Training of Royale Homes, the exclusive marketing arm of Lakewood City.

This is made possible by creating the most modern, most thoroughly master-planned mixed-use community in that part of the country.

THREE VILLAGES

The Villages offer three distinct yet interrelated communities: Bel Air, Bellevue and Belgrove. Each village is designed and landscaped according to a theme, ensuring that buyers' individual tastes and lifestyles are catered to.

Each village also has its own park, playground, gazebo, barbeque and picnic grounds to create worry-free moments for you and your family, allowing you to truly take a vacation right at home.

from left, clockwise: kitchen, dining room, living room

The SAMANTHA model house, by SYSCO

The Villages form a haven of first-class residential subdivisions with landscaped entrances, wide concrete roads and 24-hour security.

Landscaped parks include aesthetically designed the Rose Gardens, Orchid Park, The Orchard and the Citrus Garden.

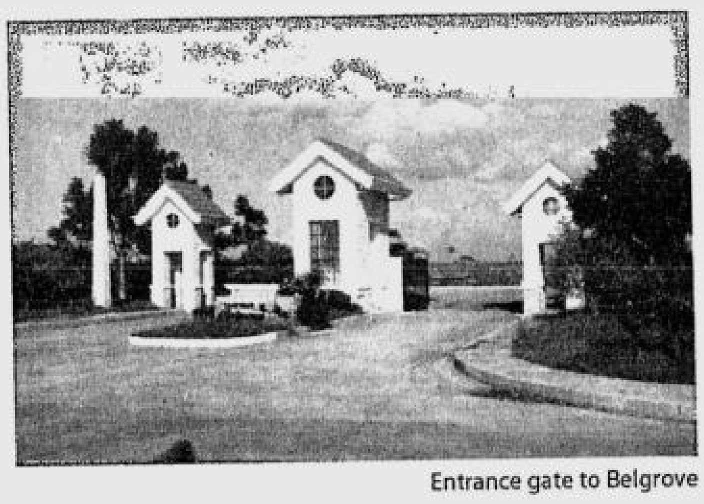
FINE LIVING

Residents of The Villages are entitled to the many exclusive privileges given at the Lakewood Golf and Country club, the biggest and most modern in Nueva Ecija.

The country club has first-rate, world-class amenities that the entire family will enjoy.

These include a fully-equipped gym, covered basketball and tennis courts, video rooms, an indoor "Playland" for kids and a pro shop for golf enthusiasts.

Moms and daughters could also pamper themselves at the beauty salon, the massage rooms and even a Jacuzzi. They even have their own locker rooms.


Entrance gate to Belgrove

If the outdoors is your preference, there's an infinity swimming pool plus a snack grill area. There's also a place for boating and fishing.

And what about picnics and outdoor play areas for the kids? Sta. Lucia Realty already thought of that by including picnic groves with kiosks and gazebos, and a children's playground.

For those who believe in staying fit whether at home or on vacation (keeping in mind that at the Villages, staying home and going on vacation can be simultaneous), The Villages entitle residents to a full range of recreational facilities at the Lakewood Golf and Country Club.

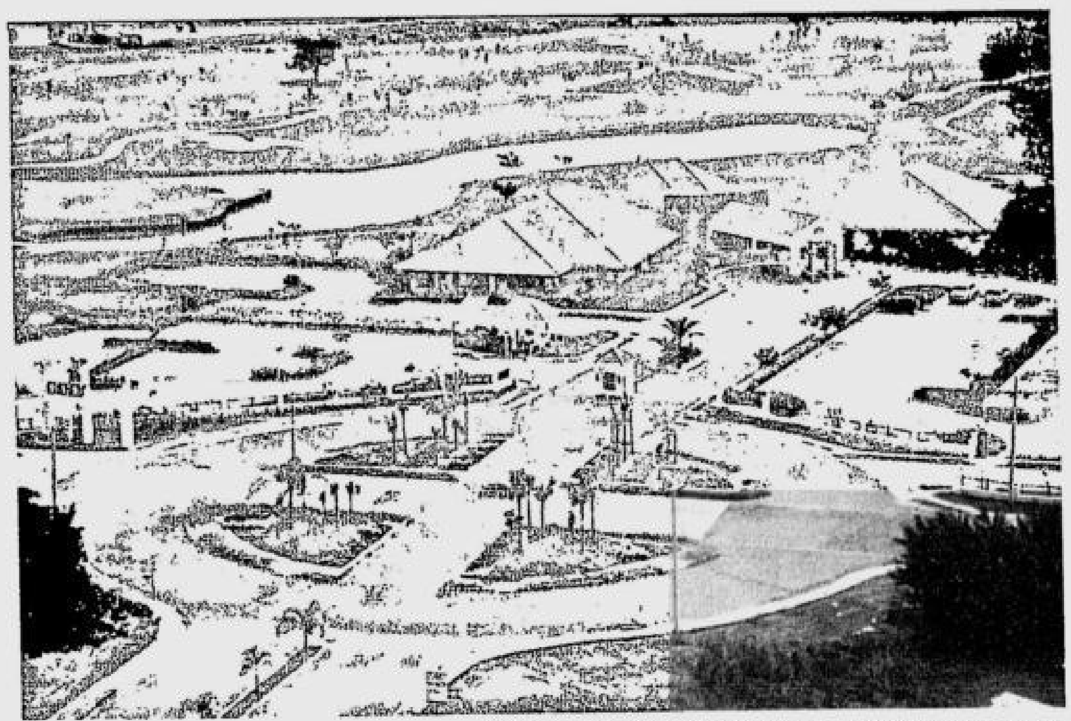
Those who cannot live without their golf game won't have to go far because Lakewood City has a world-standard, 18-hole, all-weather championship golf course.

ACCESS AND CONVENIENCE

A beautifully landscaped community would soon lose its luster if basic needs are hard to come by. That's where Lakewood City comes in.

The Villages are situated right at the next hub of development in Cabanatuan: Lakewood City.

Lakewood City is very near a central business district, shopping centers, supermarkets, hotels, a cathedral, hospitals, and even exclusive schools that are of easy access to residents of The Villages.


Lakewood Golf and Country Club and part of golf course

Lakewood Golf and Country Club

The Verandah at the Lakewood Golf Club

Lakewood City enjoys the best location in Cabanatuan City, conveniently nestled along Maharlika Highway, and across the NE Pacific Mall.

Build a home in the City. Choose a lot in any of the three Lakewood Villages, or avail of our house and lot packages to suit your taste and lifestyle.

Enjoy a casual get-together with the family on landscaped gardens

Join us on our Open House on Saturday, May 19, 2007, from 10am onwards.

For more information on how you can indulge in fine living and truly come home, please contact Royale Homes Marketing Corporation at tel. nos. (632) 723-4014, (632) 726-4288, (044) 600-0014 or log on at www.royalehomes.com.ph.

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- **Pols need their** own 'BIR' /G1

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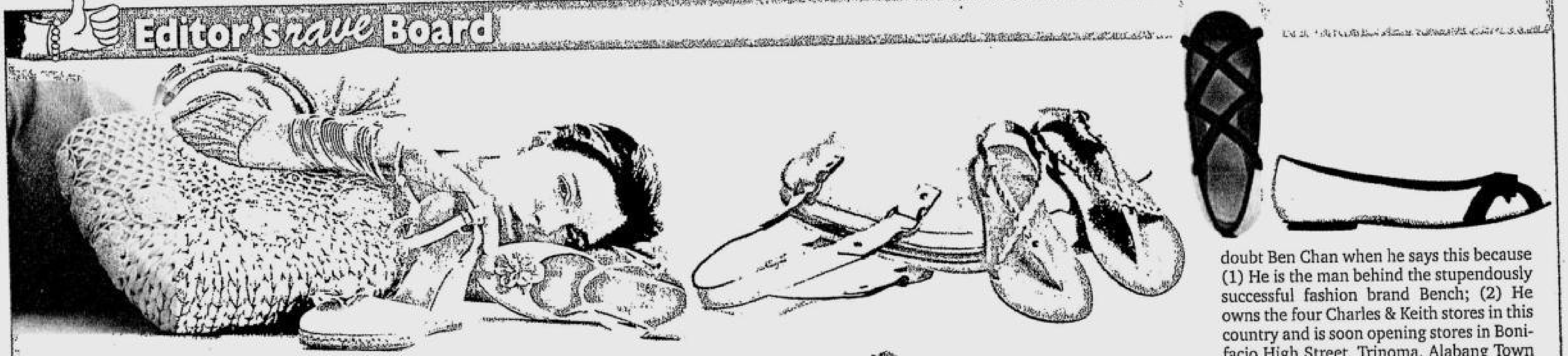
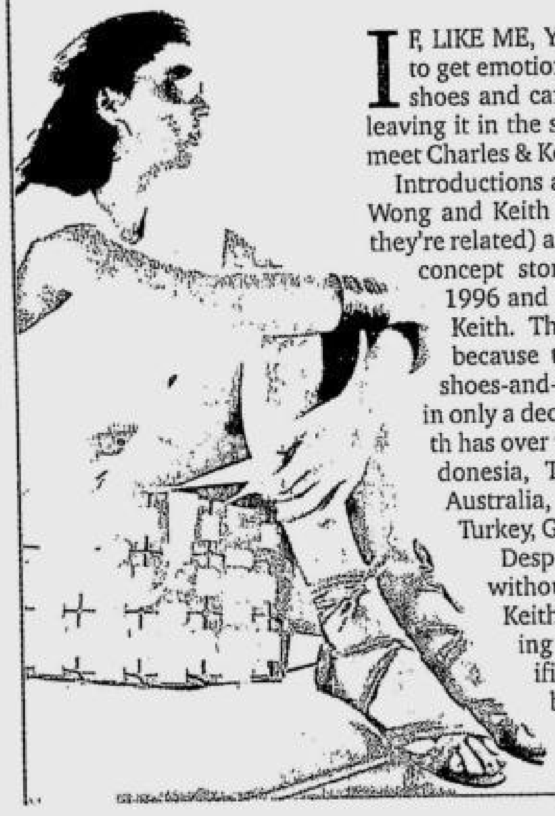


Meet Charles and Keith



IF, LIKE ME, YOU HAVE A TENDENCY to get emotionally attached to a pair of shoes and cannot bear the thought of leaving it in the store, you have to go and meet Charles & Keith.

Introductions are in order here. Charles Wong and Keith Wong (I have no idea if they're related) are two guys who opened a concept store in Singapore back in 1996 and named it, well, Charles & Keith. They obviously chose well because they grew their women's shoes-and-bags business really fast in only a decade. Today, Charles & Keith has over 90 stores in Singapore, Indonesia, Taiwan, Thailand, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Dubai, Turkey, Greece and the Philippines, Despite opening early this year without any fanfare, Charles & Keith has been quietly attracting bag fanatics and "Imeldifics" alike into its sleek and bright stores here.

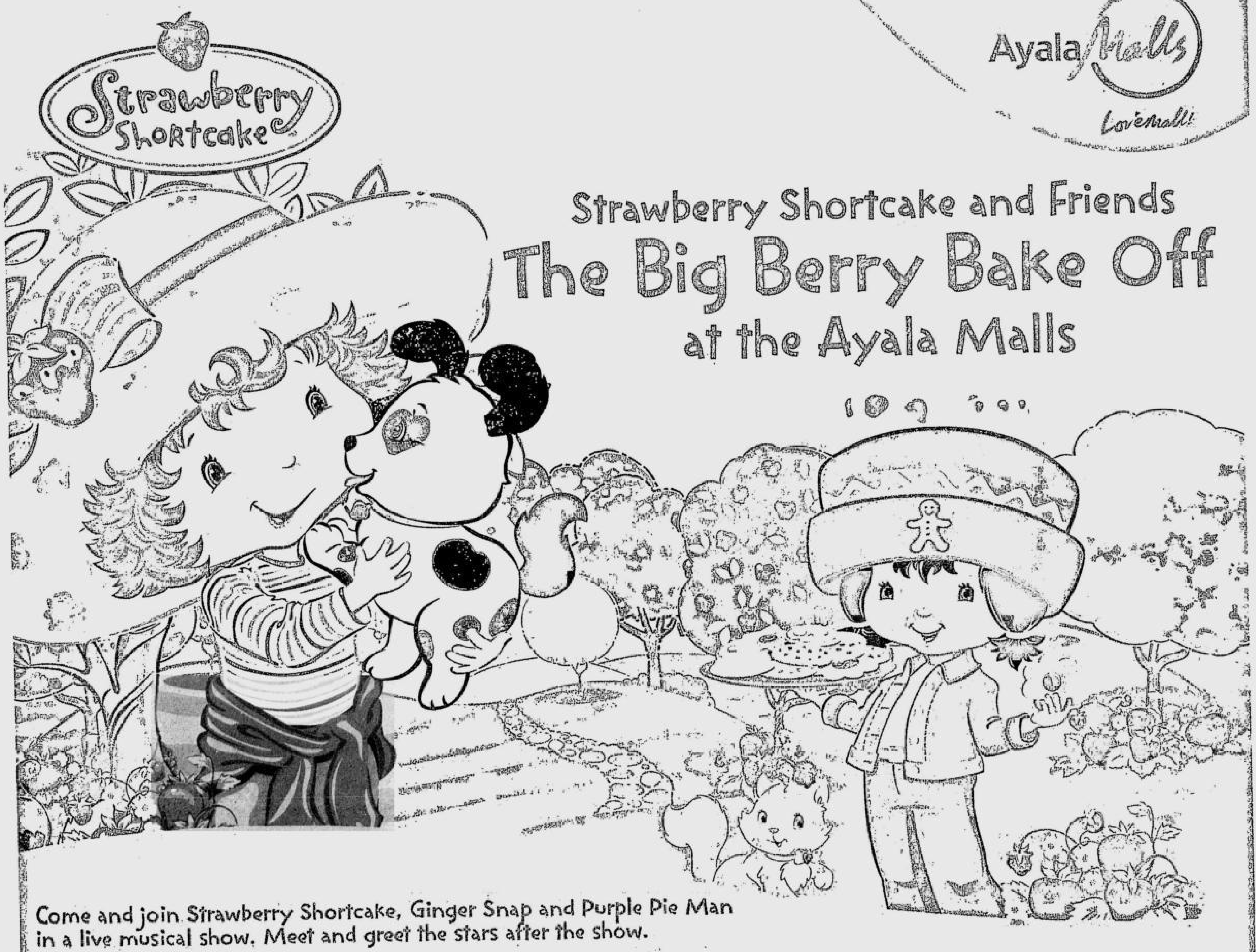
I have no reason to doubt Ben Chan when he says this because (1) He is the man behind the stupendously successful fashion brand Bench; (2) He owns the four Charles & Keith stores in this country and is soon opening stores in Bonifacio High Street, Trinoma, Alabang Town Center and Festival Mall; (3) I spent half an hour with him in the Glorietta 2 store and saw women shopping for shoes at mid-afternoon. (Don't these women work? Don't they have stories to edit?)

Pinays truly love shoes—that's Ben's conclusion after being in the shoe retail scene these past few months.

What's not to love? Charles & Keith carries warm weather essentials like crochet-and-bamboo satchels, totes in canvas and lace, mock croc wood wedges, canvas espadrilles with printed inners, safari-inspired pumps and polka dots on kitten heels.

My favorites are their fabulously flat sandals—some are braided, bronze and beautiful, some are held together by the skinniest strips of leather in the coolest shade of pale and some are stylish reincarnations of the classic huaraches. I had bought similar pairs from other stores and it hurts to find them here at half the price. I swear, from now on, I'll look in Charles & Keith first before allowing any pair to tug at my heart again.

Head over heels in love with any pair on this page? There are Charles & Keith stores in Robinson's Galleria; Glorietta 2; SM Megamall and Ayala Center Cebu. *CBF*



Ayala Malls
Love malls

Strawberry Shortcake and Friends
The Big Berry Bake Off
at the Ayala Malls

Come and join Strawberry Shortcake, Ginger Snap and Purple Pie Man in a live musical show. Meet and greet the stars after the show.

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Market! Market!
Activity Center
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Concierge Hotline:
886.7519

Alabang Town Center
Activity Center
May 18 - 20
11am, 3pm & 6pm
Concierge Hotline:
842.2782; 772.1860

TriNoma
Activity Center
May 25 - 27
11am, 3pm & 6pm

Ayala Center Cebu
Activity Center
June 1 - 3
1pm, 4pm & 6:30pm
Concierge Hotline:
(032) 231.5342 loc. 324

* For seating and meet and greet passes, please visit the Ayala Malls Concierge.

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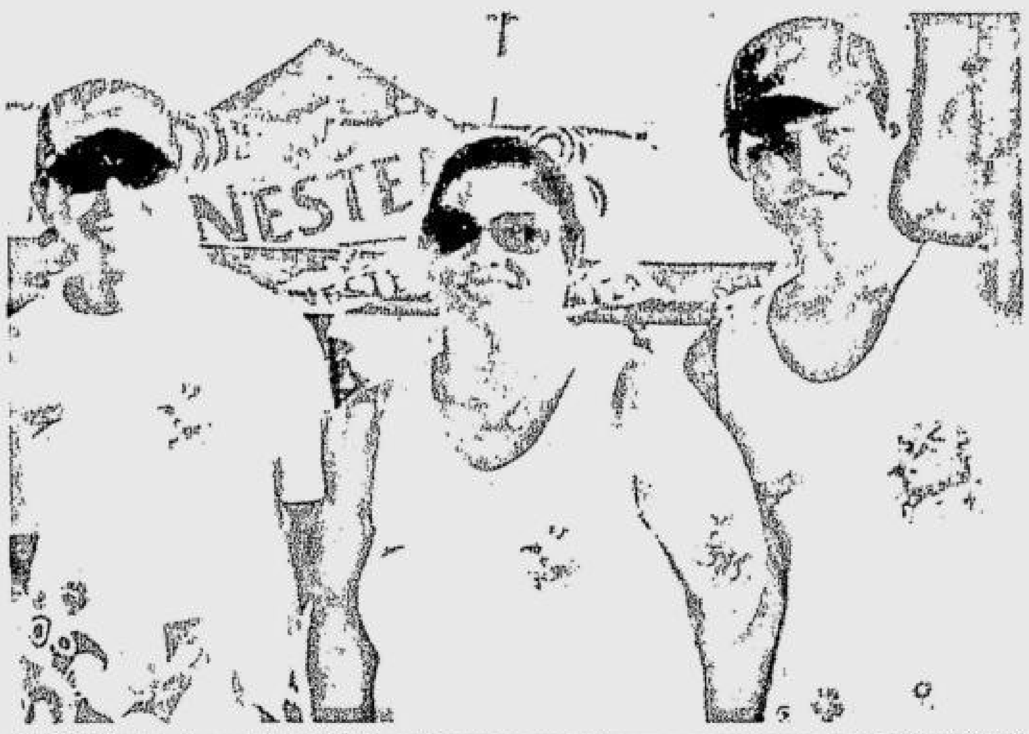
www.ayalamalls.com.ph

DIVERS Jojo Ng, Rey Kabigting, Brad Turvey and Dennis Austratico

KAREL Marquez loves volleyball.

NANCY Castiglione


HAPPY Nestea team. Nestlé SVP and business executive manager Eugene David, Nestlé AVP and Nestea consumer marketing manager Tina Samaco, and Nestea brand activation specialist Ronald Chuacokiong

Volley of the dolls and guys

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

BORACAY IS ROCKING WITH ALL those events that are going on, *palanggas*. One hot happening was the Nestea Beach 2007.

The hot, sweaty four-day event marked the 11th year of Nestea Beach that gets hotter and tougher. The country's finest beach volley athletes, the most beautiful faces and bodies and top honchos in the corporate world all took part in the event, dahlings.

Welcoming the tons of personas was Malay Mayor **Ceciron Cawaling**, who was joined by Nestlé top executives led by Nestlé SVP and business executive manager **Eugene David** and super asset Nestlé AVP and Nestea consumer marketing manager, adorably smart **Tina Samaco**, plus other Nestlé hotshots.

This Boracay happening has tons of followers, natch! Out of 48 teams from 34 colleges, only 18 awesome teams from 17 schools made it to the semis and final rounds in sunny Bora. They competed for over a cool million pesos in prizes.

Gabshar Tahiluddin and **Yusop Abdulkarim** of Mindanao State University of Tawi-Tawi won the men's title and **Janez Armie Igot** and **Jusabelle Brillo** of the University of the Visayas took the women's crown, *palanggas*. The champion teams received P150,000 cash each while their respective coaches got P50,000 cash.

Also huge crowd-drawers were Nestea Beach celebrity matches played for two scorching yet utterly exciting days, dahlings.

Clinching the Nestea Beach 2007 Celebrity Match Championship were television personalities **Geoff Rodriguez** and **Tisha Silang**, and Nestlé's **Andrew Neri** and Publicis Manila's **Mondo Armedilla**.

Losers were TV personalities **Sam Oh** and **Iya Villania**, and columnists **JR Isaac** and **Philip Cu-Unjieng**.

Then it was party time. A series of bashes was held at Villa de Oro Boracay and a party-cum-fashion show at Boracay Mandarin Island Hotel. At the Summer Place, Kadangyan performed its cool ethno music.

Once it was all over, it was time to go and clean up Boracay's different stations, *palanggas*.

Without doubt, Nestea proved again that it knew how to throw a party that's fun, exciting and we couldn't get enough of, thanks to PR's high priest **Edd Fuentes** of the in-demand Fuentes Publicity Network Inc., *palanggas*.

The event was made possible with the help of Nestea's fantastic friends, *natch*—Speedo; Mikasa; Villa de Oro Boracay Beach Resort Hotel; Boracay Mandarin Island Hotel; Boracay Gold Crowne Club; Microtel Inns and Suites Boracay; Hey! Jude @ D'Mall; D'Mall D'Boracay; La Salle Greenhills; Schering Plough Coppertone; Crystal Sand; and Nautilus by PJ Arañador.

Rewarding experience

Leave it to our pal, the Mabuhay Miles, Philippine Airlines' Frequent Flyer Program, *palanggas*, to offer members a truly rewarding online experience through a dedicated website, www.mabuhaymiles.com. This website and its new features were presented to us at one of my favorite places, Circles Café of Makati Shangri-La Hotel, *natch*!

We were told during a yummy, yummy lunch that, with its user-friendly navigation, members could easily access the specific information they were interested in with just a few clicks, dahlings.

"Through their website all members enjoy direct access to program information and promotions and events," explained, PAL's cyber smart, smashing **Ria Domingo**, *palanggas*.

More importantly, members can access real-time account info through the Mabuhay Miles e-Statement... anytime, anywhere. They will be sending regular newsletters via e-mail. With the Mabuhay Miles e-Connections, members get updated on their Mabuhay Miles status and enjoy so many other features, *palanggas*.

With Mabuhay Miles members becoming more web-savvy, *palanggas*, PAL would be launching sooner than soon more useful and exciting online features.

So log on to www.mabuhaymiles.com now!

Art awards

It was the "artiest" event of the week, *palanggas*, the *tres* impressive launch at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Intercontinental of the country's premier visual arts competition, the Philip Morris Philippine Art Awards (PAA).

Moi was amazed at the awesome turnout of artists who rubbed elbows with tons of art lovers, as well as heavyweights from the business world, dahlings.

Après circulating and chatting, the lights were dimmed and the competition was launched with the switching on of the new PAA website, www.philippineartawards.org. The site provides downloadable entry forms and the history of the 12-year awards.

The *tres charmant* and articulate **Chris Nelson**, managing director of Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc., organizer and sponsor of the PAA, said in his short opening remarks: "Philip Morris has supported the arts worldwide for the past 50 years and will continue to support the arts in the Philippines..."

A commemorative coffee-table book, "Philip Morris Philippine Art Awards: A Decade of Inspired Creativity," covering the first 10 years of the art awards, 1994-2005, was also launched. Written by renowned art critic **Cid Reyes**, the book features hotshot National Artists **Abdulmari Imao, Napoleon Abueva** and **Ben Cabrera**, no less, dahlings.

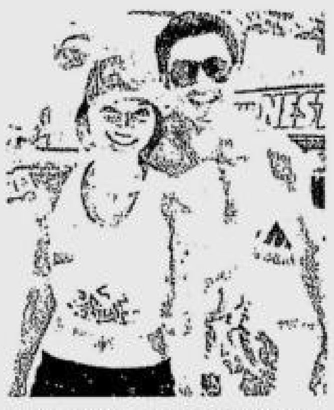
Fila abloom

Italian sports brand Fila is taking a cue from the Milan, Paris and New York catwalk scenes, *palanggas*. It is making its own summer spectacle with the new limited-edition Fioré collection featuring buds of flowers like the hibiscus in yummy colors—buttery yellow, cool lime, refreshing citrus, clean white and pretty lilac, *palanggas*.

"Blooms give an interesting element to pieces from short-fitted reversible skirts to loose jazz pants and flattering empire-cut tank tops," explained Fila's young, hip woman of style **Cris Albert**, no less, during the fun Fioré Collection launch.

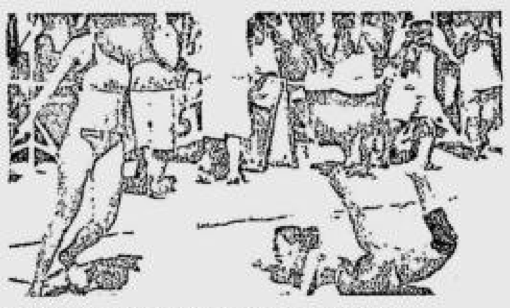
The humongous SM Mall of Asia's Activity Center was abloom for a full day of activities. Highlight of the summer spectacle was an awesome fashion show that started at 2:30 p.m. and sizzled on till 6:30 p.m., *palanggas*.

No wonder *moi* kept hearing the line "feeling good with Fila's bloom," dahlings.


EYE-CATCHING Iya Villania and hunk Luis Manzano

CELEBRITY beach volleyball winners Geoff Rodriguez and Tisha Silang

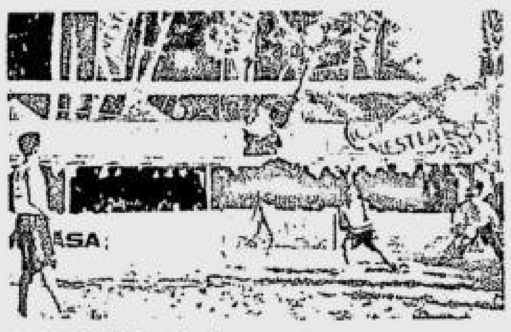
ROBBY Mananquil and delicious-looking Valerie de los Santos


UNIVERSITY of the Visayas was too powerful for Southwestern University.

DINDO GUTIERREZ

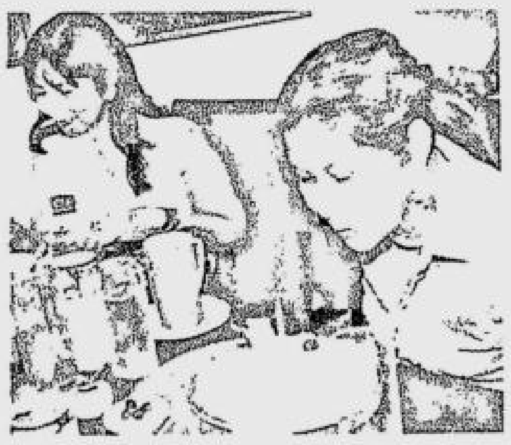
NESTEA Celebrity Beach Volleyball

DINDO GUTIERREZ


SMASHING spike!

DINDO GUTIERREZ

ANTON San Diego


BIRTHDAY GALS at PAL event. Millet Mananquil and Mons Tantoco

BIRTHDAY boy Pepper Teehankee at PAL event.

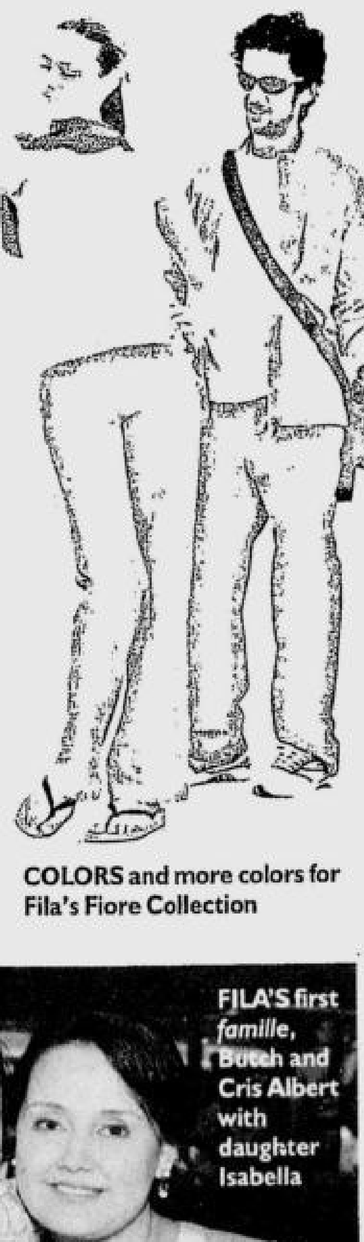
RICA Delfinado and Joanne Rae Ramirez

MABUHAY Miles rah! rah! team. Kit Javier, Mary Ann Timbol, Val Venturina, Eileen Galindez and Mike Dizon

BUTTERY yellow and pretty lilac

COOL lime, aquas and clean white for summer fun

TANGERINE and pale orange for guys and gals


COLORS and more colors for Fila's Fiore Collection

PAL'S PALS. Katrina Holigores, PAL's cyber smart manager for program development and communications Ria Domingo, *moi* and Chelo Banal-Formoso. Seated: Ethel Timbol and PAL's Felix Cruz and wonder woman Babsie Aragon

AQUA and orange for beach chic

HIT the beach and feel cool in this navy-blue and white shorts with floral detail.

FILA'S first *famille*, Butch and Cris Albert with daughter Isabella

Canon SELPHY and Digital IXUS make Summer Splash at the Boracay Beach House Party

A red carpet for the Who's Who on the white sands of Boracay?

Canon Digital IXUS and SELPHY Compact Photo Printers recently styled up Boracay with THE hottest red carpet station at Cocomangas for Studio 23's Boracay Beach Party. Glamorous party-philes posed at the white beach's main attraction and took home a free personalized Canon postcard which captured their summer experience in a waterproof, dustproof, high quality photo.

Several VIPs and celebrities were spotted posing under the bright lights at the famous Canon Red Carpet and Photo Wall and at the giant Canon-branded sandcastles all over the island. OPM band Orange and Lemons, *It's a Girl Thing*'s host Cheska Garcia, supermodel Ria Bolivar, basketball hunk Doug Kramer, TV personality and model Will Devaughn, partyphile Manolet Ripoll, multi-awarded movie director Joey Reyes and Brazilian supermodels Maria Eduarda and Henrique Fukoka and Studio 23's Juddah Paolo were some of the sun-kissed hunks and babes spotted strutting their stuff.

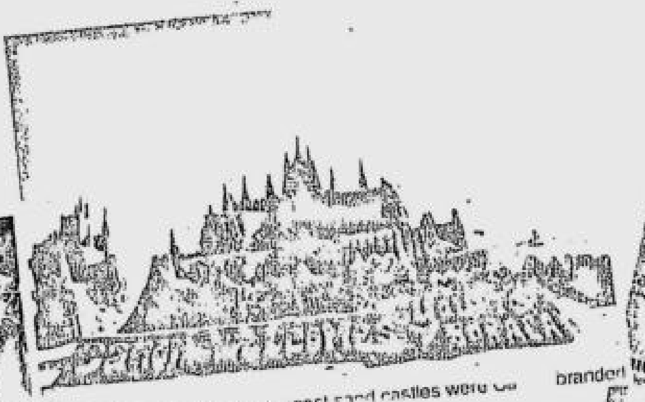
Meanwhile, three Canon Paparazzi greeted the crowd at the Caticlan Port where they took photos of eager, disembarking vacationers. Pictures taken at the boat station were then claimed at the Canon Redemption Booth in Cocamangas for free.

Canon Summer Girls also roamed the island with their Digital IXUS 70 and 75 cameras and captured people at their summer best. The Canon Digital IXUS 70 and 75 are the slimmest and most stylish digital cameras to date, and are the perfect gadgets to complement any fashionista's wardrobe because of their uncompromising style and substance. These new IXUS models boast of Canon's revolutionary new DIGIC III image processor which features Auto Exposure and Flash Exposure technologies that made sure any picture captured under the blazing summer sun stayed in focus and true to life.

After snapping photos all day and all night, the Canon Summer Girls printed the images on portable Canon SELPHY compact photo printers. With hassle-free printing functions, the SELPHY line provided unmatched ease of use so that frolicking under the sun and printing summer photos simultaneously would never be a problem. As a result, the SELPHY became the ultimate accessory for stylish photo fanatics.

All night and going all the way to dawn, Bora-philes enjoyed posing for Canon Paparazzi as they snapped and printed each moment of the hottest party series staged by Studio 23. And with DJs from Hed Kandi and Ministry of Sound, everyone danced and partied throughout the night.

With Canon's Digital IXUS cameras and SELPHY compact photo printers, vacationers' Boracay 2007 rendezvous gave memories and experiences that would definitely last a lifetime.



The biggest sand castles were Ca branded

CANON WELCOMES YOU TO BORACAY!
Canon Image Nation

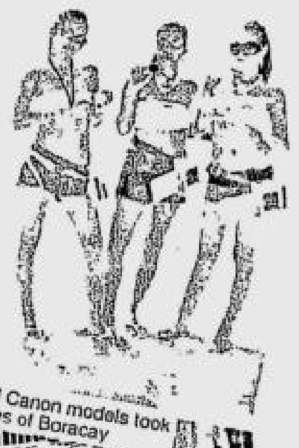
Canon billboard welcoming guests at the Boracay poi

Brazilian models enjoying their Canon SELPHY-printed picture

Model-TV Host Cheska Garcia seen at the Canon Photowall

Boracay guests enjoyed having themselves photographed

Funny poses at the Canon Photowall



Beautiful Canon models took the shores of Boracay

Busy Canon booth almost 24/7

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PictBridge

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CP730
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- Portable Battery**

CP720
- 1.5-inch LCD

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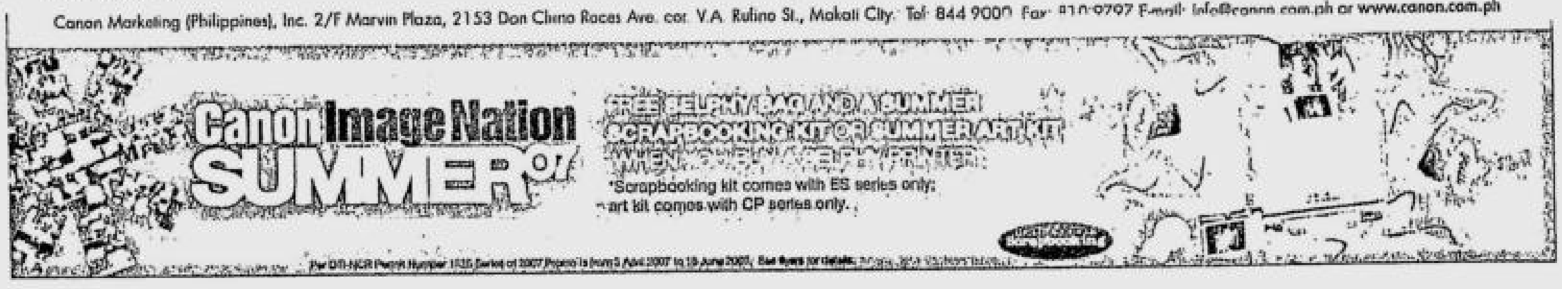


FREE SELPHY BAG AND A SUMMER SCRAPBOOKING KIT OR SUMMER ART KIT WHEN [illegible] SELPHY PRINTER.

*Scrapbooking kit comes with ES series only; art kit comes with CP series only.

Per DTI-NCR Permit Number [illegible] Series of 2007 Promo is from 3 April 2007 to 15 June 2007. See flyers for details.

MASTER Uomo

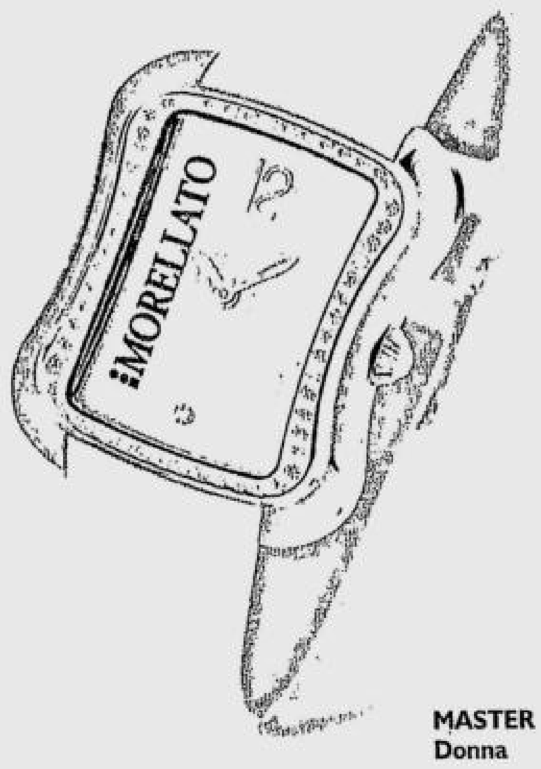
Stylish Italian watches

TRENDY MORELLATO ITEMS AND CARDS were given away at the recent Driven Manila's Sunset Sessions in Boracay.

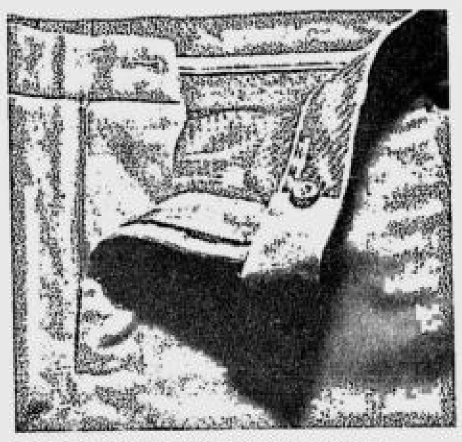
Aside from jewelry, Morellato also showcases fashionable and elegant watches and leatherwear for men and women at very affordable prices. These include watches from Master Uomo, Master Donna, Dynamic, Metropolitan, Easy and the Emotional Collection.

Go chic with the brand's new designs that showcase Italian craftsmanship. The designs combine different precious and semiprecious materials such as diamonds, gold, and pearls with innovative elements like carbon fiber, wood and leather.

Morellato items are available at Morellato Kiosk, 4/L, Podium Mall (6380030); My Diamond, 2/F, Glorietta 4 (7571086); My Diamond, G/F, Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Mall (6389376); My Diamond UG (9124013); My Diamond, 2/L, Entertainment Bldg. SM Mall of Asia (5560649); Rafael Jewellery, 2/L, Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Mall (6363398); Rafael Jewellery, Mezzanine Level, Makati Shangri-La Hotel (8138501); My Tempo, U/G Level, SM North Edsa (9277620); My Diamond/My Tempo, 2/L, Padre Faura Wing, Robinsons Place Manila (5675209).



MASTER Donna



DOCKERS Khakis offers luxurious fabrics, tough and durable but with a rich hand-feel and superior drape.

A bite of San Francisco

INTERNATIONAL FASHION brand Dockers San Francisco celebrates the essence of the "San Fran lifestyle" in its latest men's collection and marketing campaign.

"Our designs are modern, stylish and comfortable, taking men from work to play and travel to golf, in a palette of natural and man-made luxurious fibers that express themselves in a comprehensive collection of business wear and leisure apparel," says David Smith, vice president for the Dockers San Francisco brand, Levi Strauss Asia-Pacific division, based in Singapore.

The new Dockers Khakis lineup bears the sign-off 37°48'N, which all mariners and sea sports aficionados would recognize as the nautical reference to San Francisco.

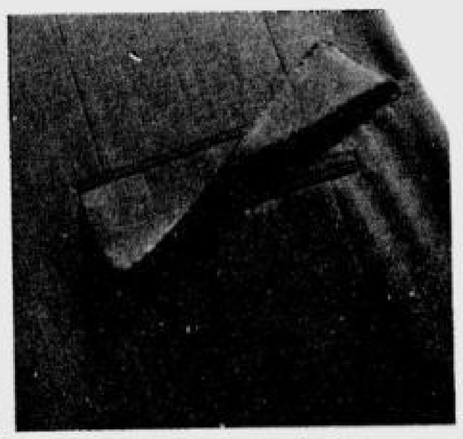
Dockers Khakis offers luxurious fabrics, tough and durable but with a rich hand-feel and superior drape. The collection comprises twill pants and non-five pocket denim pants in regular and slim fits with straight legs, as well as cargo shorts. Tops in the collection are long- or short-sleeved, featuring polo, crewneck and rugby tee-shirts, all in 100-percent cotton.

Another new offering is the Dockers Mobile line, featuring active travel wear designed for consumers always on the move. These are men who value versatile, comfortable clothes in timeless styles, and who will benefit most from innovative features such as moisture control, stain defender, sun guard and easy care.

Dockers Mobile pants also have security pockets, i.e. zipped vault pockets within front pockets for storing credit cards; large stowaway pockets along the side seams for travel documents or electronic equipment; and hidden pockets along the back yoke. Some pants are convertible to shorts, and some of the shorts are also reversible.

The tops, comprising plain and check shirts in linen or cotton, jersey tees, and a jacket,.are also fitted with inner security pockets, credit card pockets and side stowaway pockets. Some tops are also reversible.

The Dockers Collection, meanwhile, is for busy executives. The range offers pleated and flat-front pants, collared button-down shirts, polo and long-sleeve knits and blazers with "Never Iron" antibacterial and wrinkle-resistance qualities.



DOCKERS Mobile pants also have security pockets.

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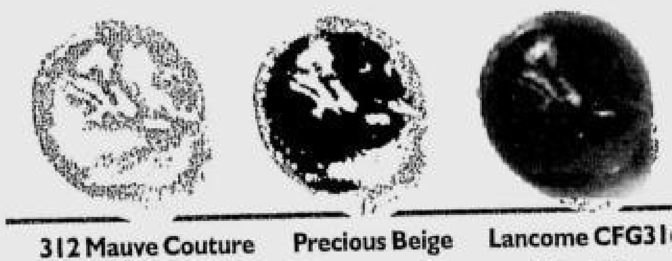

312 Mauve Couture Precious Beige Lancome CFG316 Blackberry Party

Glossy, shiny lippies

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

The best parts about the two new brands I have been road-testing are their reasonable price tags and silky quality on my lips

BEAUTY

MY STRESS BUSTER THIS past few months has been to lock myself in a room with a bunch of lipsticks or glosses and make notes about them. The best parts about the two new brands I have been road-testing are their reasonable price tags and silky quality on my lips.

1. **Fashion 21 Lip Spa lipsticks (P175).** It adds creamy color that moisturizes the driest lips. Aloe and jojoba do the trick without the greasy look and feel. Continuous use improves the condition of chapped lips even after the color is gone. Among the ten shades, my top two choices are Resin—for watermelon-red lips, and Aloewood—neutral pink brown that goes with any skin tone.

2. **Fashion 21 Perfect Lips (P185)**—Lipliner on one side and matching lipstick in another. The best colors for me are very richly pigmented: 05 Macadamia—rosy brown; 06 Mahogany—bronze red; and 10 Tawny—cinnamon rose.

3. **Fuller Life (formerly Sara Lee) shared with me endorser KC Concepcion's favorite shades among its Colour Collection Lipsticks.** I tried five of the six shades KC loves and I was pleasantly surprised. The color was opaque like matte lipstick and lasted just as long, but it did not dry out my lips. Instead, it plumped them up and erased all the dry lines.

KC for Fuller Life Colour Collection Lipstick 001

REVLON Super Lustrous in Cherries in the Snow

LANCOME Color Fever Gloss

SMASHBOX in Pale Pout

The lipstick contains Vitamin E and sunscreen. This May, it costs only P169 as part of a special Mother's Month offer (the original price is P299).

My choice among KC's faves: French Red—rich classic true red, and Copper Drama—terracotta brown. The other three KC shades turned orange or too bright on me. Call 1-800-10-FULLER1.

The classic red lipstick is mostly worn in the evening or during the cooler months from September to February. Nude lips, on the other hand, can be worn all year round and any time of the day. On a bare face, it comes across as fresh and natural, but when paired with smoky eyes the look instantly becomes sultry. Angelina Jolie, Liz Hurley, J.Lo and Pamela Anderson are nude-lip lovers, but they are in-your-face sexy.

Fave nude beige lipstick

Smashbox Photo Finish Sila Silk lipstick in Pale Pout, available at any Beauty Bar boutique; Avon Ultra Moisturerich in Heaven; Guerlain KissKiss Envie de Beige (Hilary

GLOSSY/D3

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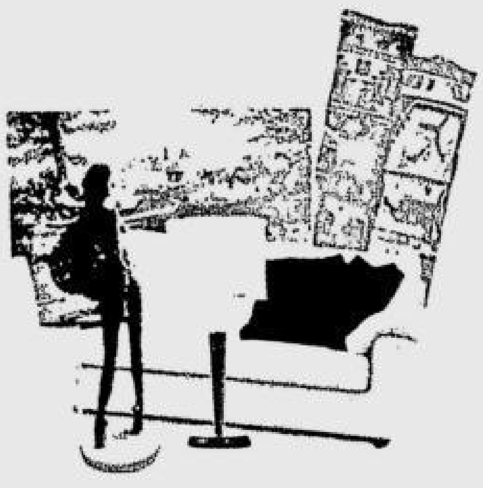
Per. DTI-NCR Permit No. AI-311 series of 2007



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Swans in the making

By Cheche V. Moral

IT'S BAD ENOUGH TO HAVE career doors slammed at your face one after the other because you don't look a certain way. Then you step into a roomful of strangers and a team of people points out in detail what's supposedly wrong with each part of you—as camera bulbs flash and lens zoom in on those body parts.

By any measure a humiliating scenario, but one that three young women recently have had to go through.

Beverly Hills 6750 last week presented to the media the three finalists in its Ms Ugly (No More) competition. It's a tilt intended to showcase the expertise of the new clinic's team of cosmetic surgeons, dermatologists and dental specialists by transforming, well, ugly ducklings into graceful swans through some rigorous and, in parts, radical surgical procedures.

The three women finalists were picked from a pool of 10 women via SMS votes. Another round of text voting will determine who will be crowned Ms Ugly (No More) on June 18. This month all three will undergo a Beverly Hills 6750 makeover specifically designed for each of them.

At the presentation on Friday, several floors below Beverly Hills 6750's posh offices on Ayala Avenue, Makati, finalist Luisa Ramos, 23, cringed as she was asked to lift her shirt and bare her belly so the surgeon, Rene Valerio, could show the media just what he would be working on. Valerio said the young woman needed liposculpture, among other things.

Any other person would have been mortified at being the subject of such less-than-flattering attention, but Ramos and her co-finalists knew only too well that this was what they signed up for.

Lou Victorioso, a vivacious 31-year-old, even joked that she would require the most work. Valerio confirmed this when he enumerated the procedures the mother of three would have to go through: tummy tuck, breast augmentation, nose job, chin job, etcetera, etcetera.

A dream of a better life plus sheer ambition drove these women to compete, they told the INQUIRER. Jeralyn Escorel, 27, a housewife and finalist, said she was tired of being turned away from job interviews because, she felt, of the scars and pronounced veins on her legs and her flat nose.

"I don't mind being dark, as long as I have smooth skin. I only wanted to be a saleslady so I could help my husband," she said in Filipino. Escorel is married to a security guard.

Ramos, a hairdresser, said her passion was dancing, but was told she wasn't sexy enough to fit into a dancer's skimpy costumes. As a child, she said, she was always teased for being dark and *pango* (flat-nosed).

The family breadwinner, Ramos said she might have to quit her job as a hairdresser while going through the makeover process.

"It's eating up a lot of my time. But my mother is worried. My parents don't have a fixed income as vendors, and they depend on me."

Contract-bound

The women are contract-bound to be image models of Beverly Hills 6750 for three years, though they admitted the other clauses are yet unclear to them. Each woman will receive cosmetic procedures said to be worth P1 million.

"You better turn out good and stay that way because we're spending so much on you," Jessica Rodriguez-Bunevacz, marketing manager, warned the women, only half-joking.

David Bunevacz, the clinic's president and CEO, said the women would serve as a showcase of the clinic's work, and will be required to do TV guestings, among other duties. The contract also stipulates that the women aren't allowed to get pregnant.

"I just hope I can still earn money while I'm doing this," Ramos added.

"I've never been insecure with my looks," said Victorioso, a Beyonce wannabe. "I'm dark but I'm not ugly! I just felt the need to do something after I had my third child. I knew I couldn't get back to my old figure on my own."

Victorioso was a singer in Japan when she was younger. A Japanese patron even put her through college, she said.

"There are some who are interested in managing my career here, but I'm older now. I need to keep up with the times. I want to be able to dress up like Beyonce! My husband's a dancer, too, so he's okay with all this. We're relatively okay financially—for now—because my mother, who's in the United States, is supporting us. This contest is my stepping stone to be recognized."

Not to be outdone, Escorel suddenly admitted she actually wants to pose for a men's magazine. Her husband supports and trusts her, she added.

"I was so desperate to win that I had flyers printed out so people would vote for me," she said. "Then when I saw people throw my flyers away, I would rush to pick them up. It was expensive to make them! I learned my lesson. I used the money to buy phone load instead."

Like any patient undergoing a surgical procedure, the finalists had to sign a waiver, according to Bunevacz.

"I'm a little afraid," Victorioso admitted. "But maybe it will be like giving birth; you feel the pain only after. *Tulog ka naman.* (I'll be sedated anyway)."

All three will undergo skin lightening via glutathione injections, teeth whitening, gum lightening, hair removal, and non-invasive treatments like Botox, Fraxel and Thermage. Surgical procedures are tailor-designed for each. While the women didn't go through formal psychological counseling, they will be taking personality development classes, according to the clinic.

The women will show off their new selves in a presentation at the Ayala Museum on June 18.

To vote for Luisa, text Ms Ugly Luisa to 299. To vote for Lou, text Ms Ugly Lou to 299. To vote for Jeralyn, text Ms Ugly Jeralyn to 299.

FREAK-SHOW SPECIMENS NOT. These three women grin and bear it as cameras are trained on their bodily imperfections, before they go through the process of an extreme physical makeover.

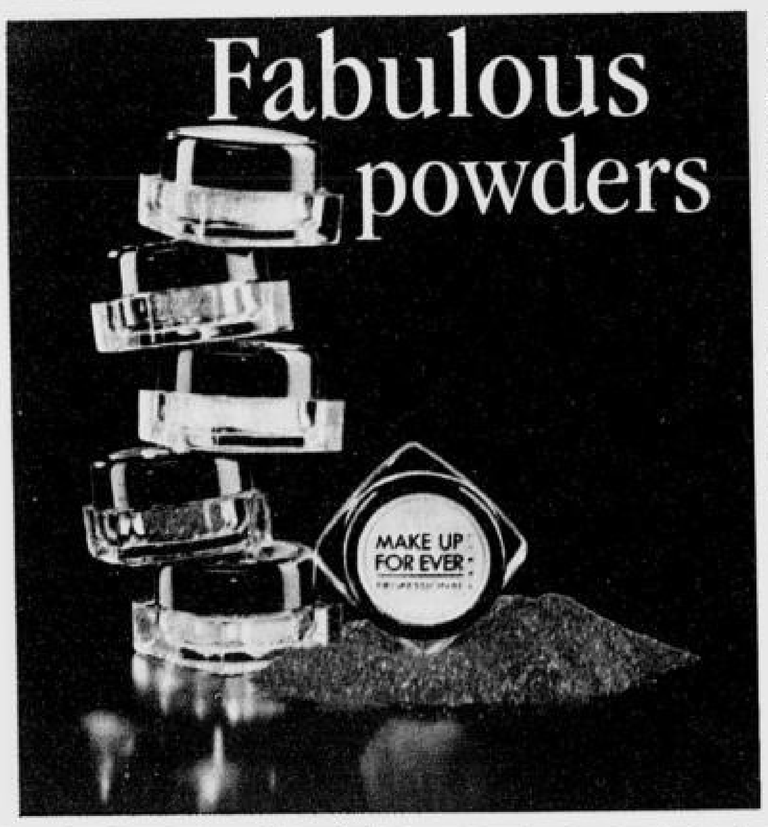
ROMY HOMILLADA

> Beverly Hills 6750 recently presented to the media the three finalists in its Ms Ugly (No More) tilt

JERALYN ESCOREL: When I was small, other kids won't play with me because I was dark. I got teased a lot. Our poverty also made me feel very insecure.

LOU VICTORIOSO: My daughter says I now look very pretty. She thinks I've already undergone some cosmetic procedure.

LUISA RAMOS: One day, when I have a child of my own and she wants to go through cosmetic surgery, it won't be an issue as long as we could afford it.



Fabulous powders

MAKE UP FOR EVER LETS YOU shimmer, sparkle, and shine with its truly unique Diamond Powder and Star Powder. Fabulous for creating intense looks and dramatic nuances, these powders are especially formulated to be safely and comfortably used on the eyes.

A product unique to Make Up For Ever, Diamond Powder has a subtle and elegant shimmer. Ultra-light and incomparably fine diamond-like particles are actually borosilicate crystals, which capture light and provide scintillating luminosity on the skin.

The color is pure and the brilliance is extreme. Professional makeup artists use it on photo shoots to create a pearly wet look. On stage, Diamond Powder's intense sparkle is a favorite under the spotlights.

It's easy to apply. Dab on the skin for a light, subtle effect, apply over a cream base such as our Camouflage Cream, use with Make Up For Ever's Eye Seal or blend with our Corrective Make Up Base to create a more dramatic, metallic look. It also blends well with any type of powder or liquid foundation! On cheeks, eyes, lips and the body, Diamond Powder adds a captivating effect to any look.

Diamond Powder (P1,200) is available in N1 White, N2 White Gold, N3 White Mauve, N4 Bronze, N5 Red Copper, N6 White Blue, N7 White with Turquoise highlights, N8 Turquoise, N9 Pink and N10 Purple.

Intense shimmer

Another product unique to Make Up For Ever, Star Powder is a rich powder which draws its intense shimmer and glow from finely-milled pearl particles. Natural mica crystals intensify the reflection of light and amplify shimmer, while high-grade natural pigments create a wide selection of dazzling colors. The silky, ultra-fine texture is easy to apply, glides on evenly, and adheres to the skin.

Light, versatile and truly comfortable, Star Powders can create a subtle hint of color and highlight on the eyes when applied dry with a brush—or extraordinary, vivid shades when applied on Make Up For Ever's Camouflage Cream for a glamorous evening look.

Star Powder may also be applied over lipstick, mascara, and eye pencil for a splash of color. It may also be mixed with loose powder to create a special sheen.

Variations

Star Powder (P950) is available in N902 Pearl Gold, N905 Blue, N906 Turquoise, N910 Celadon, N912 Fuchsia, N916 Pink Gold, N917 Pink Burgundy, N920 Yellow Gold, N921 Red Copper, N922 Gold Copper, N926 Iridescent Beige, N927 Metallic Rosewood, N928 Pastel Blue, N929 Bronze Khaki, N930 Bronze Brown, N940 White with Orange highlights, N941 White with Silver highlights, N942 White with Mauve highlights, N943 White with Rose highlights, N944 White with Turquoise highlights, N946 Iridescent Neutral Beige, N947 Iridescent pale Peach, N948 Silver, N949 Iridescent Red, N950 Black Gold, N951 Iridescent Fuchsia, N952 Iridescent Orange, N953 Peach with Pink highlights and N954 Purple.

Make Up For Ever is available at 3/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall (tel. 6385702); 3/F, The Block, SM City North Edsa (4420368); and Marionnaud, 2/F, SM Mall of Asia.

The scent of bliss and pleasure

SOUL & SENSES IS A LIMITED-edition fragrance from Mont Blanc's Femme Individuelle that inspires quiet bliss, tranquility, and pure pleasure.

A soft, feminine, fresh floral scent with fruity and woody notes, Soul & Senses refreshes and rejuvenates with essences of mandarin, dill leaf, and almond blossom combined with luxurious bouquets of white peach, rose petals and frangipani.

The fragrance is sealed with sensual and comforting notes of cedar wood, clover and amber.

Soul & Senses comes in the same bottle as Femme Individuelle but with a refreshing apricot colored juice that reflects the scent's character.

The fragrance is truly a respite for the soul, a holiday for the senses. It lets a woman relax and enjoy the feeling of total disconnection, allowing her a moment to think about herself and refresh her mind and spirit.

Distributed by Rustan Marketing Corporation, Soul & Senses is available at all leading department stores nationwide—EDT Spray 100 ml (P5,150), EDT Spray 50 ml (P3,950), and Body Lotion 200 ml (P2,350).

FEMME
INDIVIDUELLE
SPECIAL EDITION
SOUL & SENSES
MONT BLANC

SOUL & Senses inspires bliss, tranquility and pure pleasure.

LACOSTE
LACOSTE

LACOSTE
Hot Play

Limited-edition fragrances

LACOSTE WELCOMES THE vibrant summer with two uniquely refreshing limited edition fragrances from its Vitality line.

Lacoste Hot Play is a ready-for-action fragrance for men who thrive under the challenge of the moment, while Lacoste Touch of Spring is a woman's fragrance that captures the beauty and essence of summer and spring.

Lacoste Hot Play has an energetic, woody burst of yazu, nutmeg and black pepper combined with the freshness of freesia, papyrus roots and ivy leaves. It is tempered with warm and soothing essences of sipo wood and musk.

The fragrance is compelling and unusual, its stimulating notes evocative of hot summer months.

With shimmering notes of quince flower, exotic lilies, and musk, Lacoste Touch of Spring has joyful feminine energy. The fragrance also captures the sense of vitality of sultry days with its striking lime green juice and lithe, graceful bottle that suggests feminine agility.

Lacoste Hot Play is offered on limited supply in all Lacoste Boutiques and leading department stores nationwide in 75 ml at P3,150 and 125 ml at P4,100. Lacoste Touch of Spring sells for P3,450 and P4,350.

Glossy, shiny lippies

From page D1

Swank used this in the Insolence ad); Revlon Super Lustrous Nude Velvet or Fleshtone (P395); and Luscious Lip Lessons by Lancôme.

The most popular lip glosses out there are no doubt Lancôme Juicy Tubes with their perfect flavors, sheer tints and megawatt shine. The minor complaint I hear about Juicy tubes is their kiddy packaging and sticky feel, which girls' boyfriends hate.

To address this picky bunch of customers, Lancome has launched Color Fever Gloss, which has a glamorous crystal-like packaging, gliding texture, sensual shine and the absence of that sticky feel and strong scent. Drop by any Lancôme counter every weekend of May for a personalized step-by-step lip reading based on your lip shape, skintone and shade preference, capped by a lipstick trial.

For every complete makeover, Lancome will give fragrance samples plus a free lipstick pouch for every lipstick purchase. My Color Fever Gloss of choice is 206 Precious Beige—a sheer pinky beige shimmer that makes lips look fuller and more inviting.

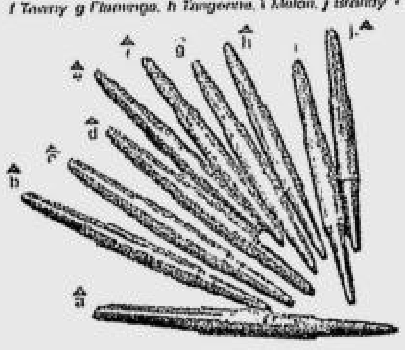
Lip reading schedules: May 19-20, Rustan's Alabang; and May 26-27, Rustan's Shangri-La Plaza.

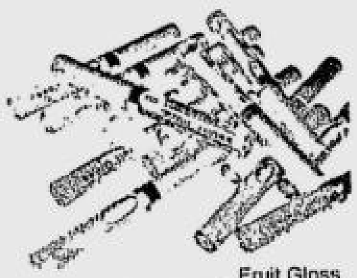
As with all lipstick lines in this article, check out the other color selections because some people find my choice corny and prefer deeper shades. I have my reasons: I have light Japanese-type skin with acidic lips that tend to turn orange vis-a-vis most lipstick and foundation shades.

Call Avon Hotline at 8942900. Fashion 21 is available at any Watson's, SM, Robinson's, Landmark, Metro Ayala Gaisano, KCC, Victoria and Landmark Department stores.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

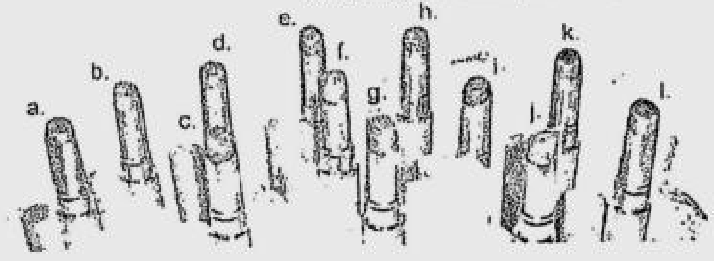
Perfect Lips
Color-rich lipstick and liner that won't smudge, stain nor dry-out. Available in: *a Grenadine b Macadamia c Cashmere d Raisin e Mahogany f Tawny g Flamingo h Tangerine i Melon j Brandy*





Fruit Gloss
Keep your lips moist and protected. Can be applied alone or layered over lipstick. Available in: *Cherry, Four Seasons, Grape, Mango, Melon, Orange, Peppermint, Strawberry, Sweet Peach*

Crystal Glaze
Moisture-rich glimmering lipstick that brings out the youthful zest in your smile. Available in: *a Winter Rose b Frosted Beryl c Orange Coral d Sparkling Coral e Wild Ginger f Polished Pink g Lustrous Berry h Shimmering Rum i Sunny Umber j Sweet Tangerine k Sheer Apricot l Brassy Bronze*



FASHION 21 Perfect Lips

Get rid of unwanted inches this summer.

See results in as little as 45 minutes!

Zunic's Slimming and Body Sculpting Method™ melts away unsightly body fat without surgery, diet, pills or exercise. The dissolved fat is naturally flushed out by the body, which means zero recovery time!

Body by
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slimming & body sculpting

Erase unsightly stretch marks!
Get FREE Firmage treatment when you enroll on or before May 31, 2007.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1421 Series of 2007

Call 752-0600 or 374-0600 for a FREE personal consultation.
Open Mon-Sun; 8am-8pm

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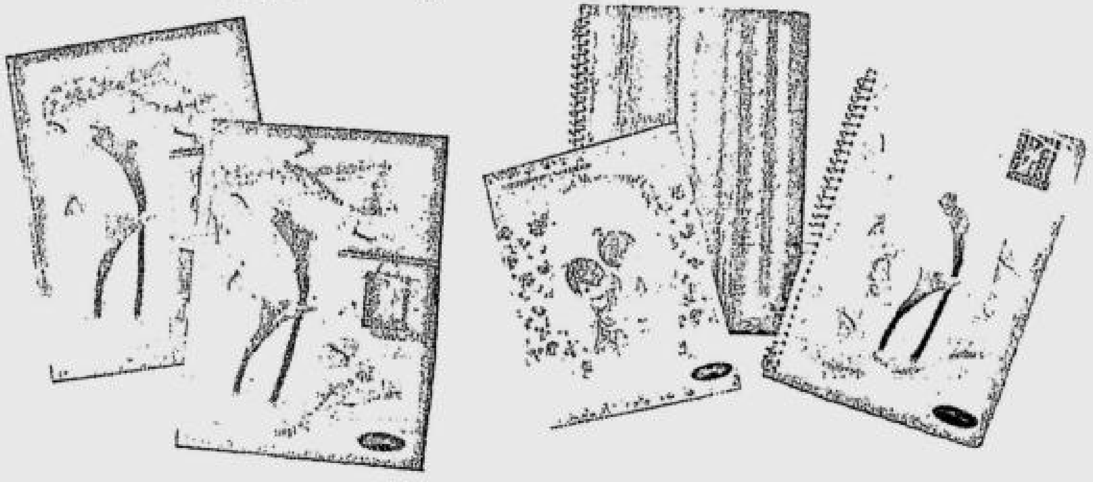
25 winners nationwide

Promo period is from April 23 to June [illegible] 2007 only.
See posters and flyers for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1576 Series of 2007
Expressions

Spice up your school life with these Funky Finds from Expressions

Take down notes in notebooks with stylish designs!

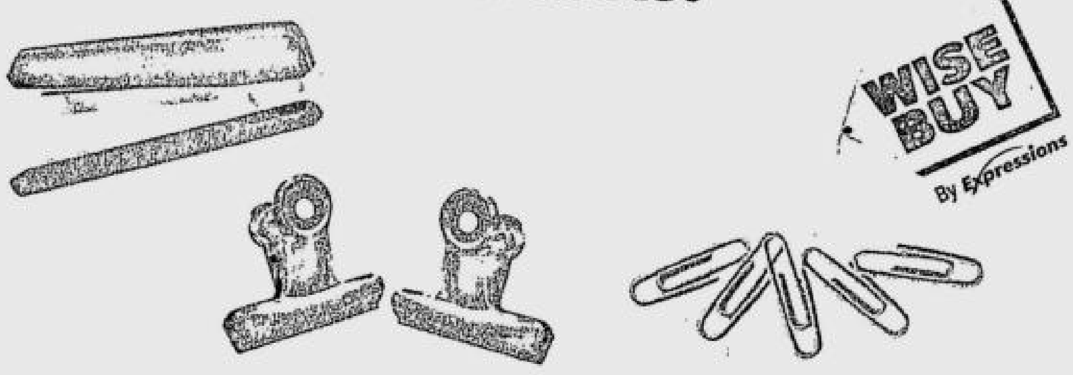


Express your thoughts & write to your heart's content!

DONG - A
FABER-CASTELL

Organize your papers with these useful tools!

WISE BUY By Expressions



Create and explore your limitless potentials!

OIL PASTELS
WISE BUY
Water Colors
WISE BUY
Water Colors
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Log on to Friendster and add us up!
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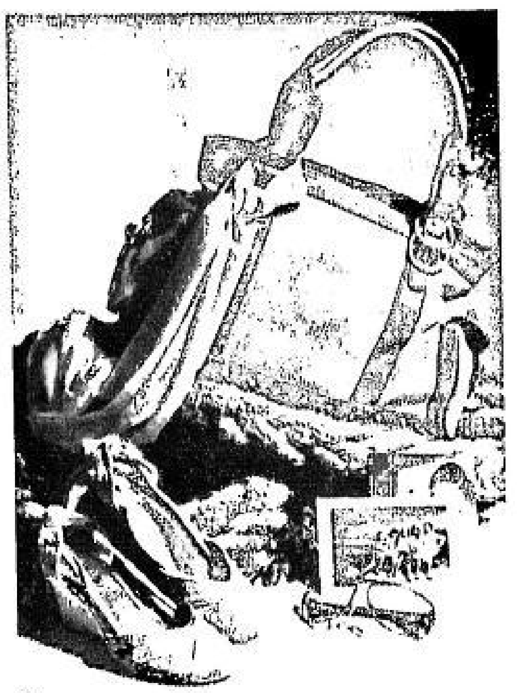
School opening na...
Expressions na!

Shoes and bags fair ongoing until May 31

GOINGS ON

ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT STORE IS (RDS) having the Shoes and Bags Fair until May 31. An extensive array of footwear and bags is featured. Whether for everyday wear or dressy events, the fair will offer a wide selection. Also available is a wide range of sneakers, school bags and backpacks for the coming school year. Customers have a chance to be one of five shoppers to win gift certificates worth P10,000. Grand prize is a back-to-school package worth P100,000. Customers get a raffle stub with every P300 worth of purchase, single or accumulated receipts. The Shoes and Bags Fair is ongoing in all RDS branches. Visit www.rds.com.ph.

"BE BOLD" CONFERENCE. Mary Kay Philippines will have its 2007 Career Conference on May 19 in Sofitel Philippine Plaza, and May 26 in Cebu Midtown Hotel and Marco Polo Hotel Davao. The "Be Bold" Career Conference is one of Mary Kay's biggest events, bringing together its independent sales force for education, motivation and recognition. The conference will feature enrichment classes to help participants increase their product know-how, enhance their direct-selling skills and teach them how to build a stable network . Call 8596211 or visit www.marykay.com.ph.



ROBINSONS Department Store holds the Shoes and Bags Fair until May 31.

MOMS AND KIDS FAIR. Junior INQUIRER and Dari Crème are set to stage "Moms 'n Kids Fair," the biggest and most exciting event for mommies and kids, May 18-20, at SM Megatrade Hall. Special discounted rates are offered to post-Mother's Day shoppers. Kids are invited to be in their best costumes and register for free to join the Mascot and Costume Parade on May 18 at 1 p.m. Kids in best costumes will win special toys and other gifts. Call 6870604. Visit www.inquirer.net or www.femalenetwork.com.

PARTY. Ginebra San Miguel Incorporated's Infinit' Summer Cool Party Series, which has invaded Cebu, Puerto Galera and Boracay to introduce the country's first and only ready-to-drink cocktail mix to the public, now troops to Eastwood City in Libis, QC, May 19, and Malate, Manila, May 25.

CORPORATE FIXED LOAD PLAN. Sun Cellular is offering companies a postpaid service to reduce work-related expenditures. The Fixed Load Plan gives automatic load credits to employees every month. Sun also throws in free new handsets. Employees can choose from five handsets. Sun's fixed Load Plan increases talk time through its revolutionary 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited service. Call 3958000 or visit www.suncellular.com.ph.

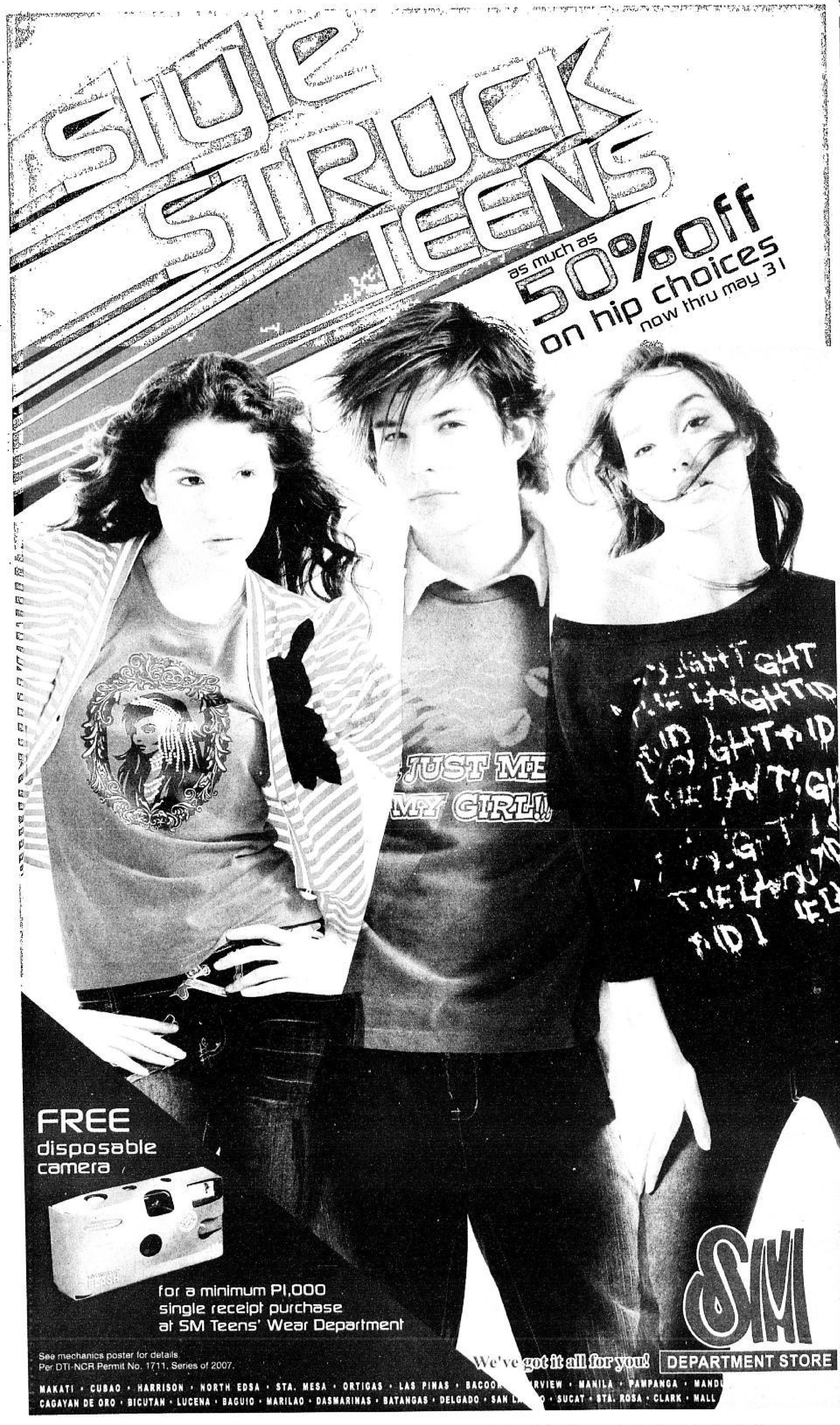
FLORAL DEMO. International floral designer Anson Low of Singapore will conduct a demonstration, "Floral Revolution," May 19-20, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at Quezon City Sports Club, E. Rodriguez Ave., QC. On the first day, Low will execute the latest designs and techniques in wedding floral arrangements. The second day will be devoted to futuristic flower arrangements plus the styles and techniques of constructions to enhance and make flower arrangements unique and stylish. Call 8140847, 4152655, 6371140 and 9294114.

SEMINARS. CFS Creating Training and Management will conduct the following seminars: "Designing A Supervisory Training Program," May 19, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; "Negotiating With Results," May 23, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; "Purchasing Management"; May 25, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; "The Challenge of Creative Selling," May 26, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 8697960, 8232358 or 8234825.

TAGAYTAY SANTACRUZAN. Tagaytay City hosts the Cavite Santacruzan de Mayo '07 to be held May 19. Leading the parade as Reyna Elena is Miss Philippines-International 2005 Precious Lara Quigaman. Also featured are Mutya ng Pilipinas 2006 Kirby Ann Basken, Miss Earth Philippines 2006 Catherine Untalan and Miss Hiyas ng Metro Tagaytay '05 Finky Carandang. The Santacruzan is being organized by the Cavite Association of Hotels in cooperation with the Provincial Tourism Office headed by Robert Fairman. After the parade, a dinner fashion show by Cavite couturier Ramon Santiago will be held at the Olivarez Convention Center in the Olivarez Plaza.

HIGH-SCHOOL REUNION. Class '82 of Colegio del Buen Consejo High School will hold its silver jubilee and grand class reunion July 28, 3 p.m., at the Tektite Tower Function Hall, Ortigas. Call 0927-9178288 or join groups.yahoo.com/groups/CBC_HS_1982Batch.

PHOTOGRAPHY CLASSES. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation is offering four-day basic and advanced photography courses every Sunday starting June 3. Classes will be held at Rm. 302-A, Femii Bldg., A. Soriano Ave., Intramuros, Manila. Call 5247576, 5280371 or 5255792.


style STRUCK TEENS
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FREE disposable camera
for a minimum P1,000 single receipt purchase at SM Teens' Wear Department

See mechanics poster for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1711, Series of 2007.

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Contributing Editors
Jenni Epperson
and Apples
Aberin-Sadhwani

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Work it!

BUTTON-DOWN pinstripe vest, P695; white shirtdress with panel crystal pleats, P1,[illegible]; red belt, P195; cropped pants, P795

James Reyes collaborates with Ensembles on a perfect-fit collection

I HAVE A THEORY THAT fashion is a lifelong search for perfection. It's the proverbial search for the perfect shoes, the perfect denim jeans, the perfect little black dress.

Mabuhay!

Jenni Epperson

You know that feeling when you dress up and it just feels right, because all the elements just fit together for the perfect ensemble? I believe it is the Holy Grail of every fashionista—that sense of perfection.

The perfect fit. Now, that's the very thing I can say about the long-awaited collaboration of James Reyes and the Ensembles label. As a trusted favorite among stylish young urban professionals, Ensembles is known for refreshing and updating its looks every season, with separates that mix and match perfectly and can go from the board-

WORK/ E2

Head honcho
Pinstripe vest with sash, P724; cap-sleeve blouse with two-way crystal pleats, P1,095; skirt with antique buttons, P745; faux pearl necklace (used as bracelet), P465

LACOSTE

un peu d'air sur terre

www.lacoste.com

RUSTAN'S MAKATI · RUSTAN'S TOWER · AYALA CENTER, CEBU
CORTE DE LAS PALMAS (ALABANG TOWN CENTER) · GREENBELT 3 · ROBINSONS GALLERIA
ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA · SM MEGAMALL, BLDG. B · THE PODIUM · TRINOMA
THE POWER PLANT (ROCKWELL CENTER) · GATEWAY MALL, ARANETA CENTER · SM MALL OF ASIA

Coffee break
Gray plaid dress with necktie, P1,145; yellow belt, P195

Ensembles is known for updating its looks every season, with separates that mix and match perfectly and can go from the boardroom to cocktail hour

Work it!

From page E1

room to the post-work dinner party.

James was very excited to collaborate with Ensembles as he felt that the brand fit his design forte: chic, polished and world-class, with a high-end feel but not a high-end price tag.

The new collections will convey James' point of view—creations that are very sleek, sophisticated and figure-flattering. To go against the full-on Victorian resurgence, there will be no lace, no ruffles and girly-girl silhouettes. The lines are more feminine than girly in this way. Think streamlined, elegant and posh, yet with touches of subtle flair.

Expect this collection to come in classic colors of black, white and grey. Subdued perhaps, but the outfits are stylized with creative accoutrements such as dramatic collars, embroidery, built-in belts and mutton sleeves. As the season progresses toward the holidays, expect more mood-lifting colors.

The first few pieces of the collection have been delivered to the stores as a teaser, and they've been flying off the racks!

So what's in store for Ensembles? The fashion house looks forward to creating more "beautiful, tasteful clothes at par with international standards in design, quality, and fabrication, yet at very practical price points," says Sheree Gotuaco, Elite Garments CEO. She's positive their loyal customers will be very pleased with the new collection featuring James Reyes.

You can say it's a match made in fashion heaven!

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

High stakes
Long mutton-sleeve with extended collar and tie-front sash shirt, P1,125; black wide-leg trouser, P1,175

Photography Mark Nicdao
Styling Jenni Epperson
Clothes Ensembles
www.ensembles.com.ph
Model Carmina Villaroel
Makeup Cathy Cantada, Shu Uemura
Hair Joey Javier for L'Oreal Professionel

She works hard for the money
Jacket with peplum, P1,225; 3/4 blouse with embroidery and elbow ribbon, P995; black cropped pants, P795; faux pearl necklace, P395

Deal? Or no deal? Long-sleeve Chines collar with diagonal-front panel overlay, P1,095; black wide-leg trouser, P1,175

Last hurrah!

From page E4

shifting, do bear in mind that a lot of your summer pieces can still carry over to the rainy season. One definite advantage of living in the Philippines is the yearlong tropical climate. No need for fur or thick woolen sweaters in this hot region!

Colorful Wellingtons, better known as rubber boots, can replace wedges and platforms, as you match them with shorts or little dresses. Wifebeaters aka tank tops can be matched with slacks or jeans plus a little shrug, cardigan or, better yet, a stylish trench that can shield you from the rain. Even ultra-colorful pieces can be used as accents for more neutral rainy-day gear.

As always, the possibilities are infinite. But meantime, celebrate what's left of summer with fashionably fun, multihued pieces in the lightest fabrics that are both comfy and cool.

Fashions from Crossings Department Store in Shangri-La Plaza, Quezon Avenue and Trinoma.

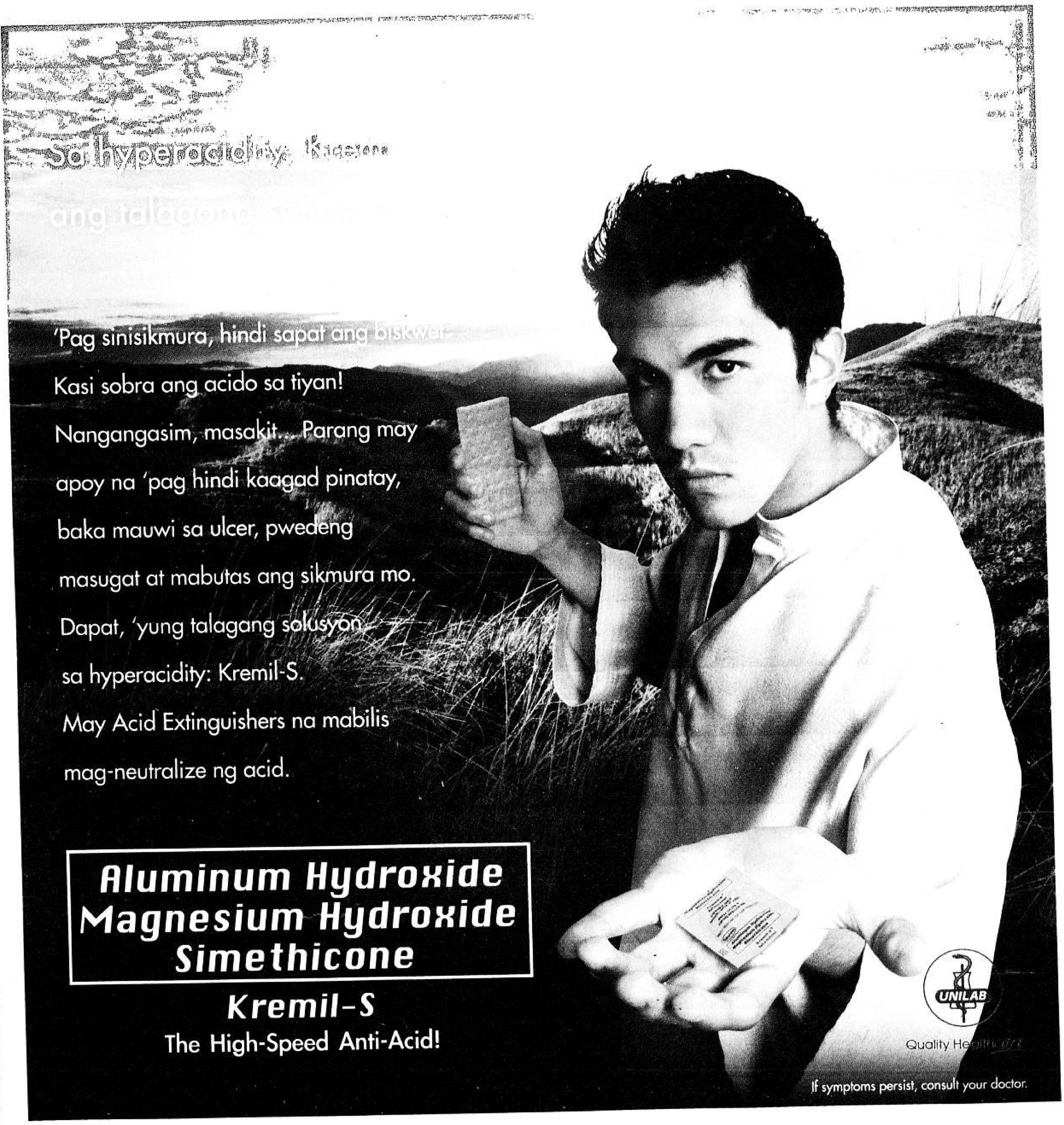
E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

Summer staples, rainy-day gear

You can still wear your summer staples during hurricane season. Simply mix them up with essential but stylish rainy-day gear for a weather-friendly look. Consider the following combinations:

- Spaghetti tops and shorts + Wellingtons and short trench
- Mini dress + Wellingtons and transparent rain coat
- Tank top or spaghetti tops + Shrug or cardigan and jeans
- Shorts + Wellingtons and hooded sweater
- Capris and tank top + waterproof shoes with Gore-Tex technology and a rain jacket

UNITED Pop printed dress with beaded armhole panel and white camisole (P3,690)



Sa hyperacidity, [illegible]
ang talagang [illegible]

'Pag sinisikmura, hindi sapat ang biskwet.
Kasi sobra ang acido sa tiyan!
Nangangasim, masakit... Parang may
apoy na 'pag hindi kaagad pinatay,
baka mauwi sa ulcer, pwedeng
masugat at mabutas ang sikmura mo.
Dapat, 'yung talagang solusyon
sa hyperacidity: Kremil-S.
May Acid Extinguishers na mabilis
mag-neutralize ng acid.

Aluminum Hydroxide
Magnesium Hydroxide
Simethicone

Kremil-S
The High-Speed Anti-Acid!

UNILAB
Quality Health[illegible]

If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

Luis Manzano talks about life, burping, and hyperacidity.

Ok, do you ever get hyperacidic?
Oh, a lot. But just the mild kind. I get hyperacidic when I'm stressed at work, which is like all the time. I burp.

Loudly?
I just burped. Did you hear anything? I'm good.

Ok. Do you drink coffee or tea?
I drink coffee AND tea.

Aha, did you know you can get hyperacidity if you drink too much coffee or tea?
So that's why! Sometimes 'pag sinisikmura ako, I drink coffee or tea. Then instead na gumaling, parang lalo pang lumalala. Siguro nawawala lang ang sakit, pero 'yung acid nandun pa rin.

Wow, you know quite a deal about hyperacidity!
Hindi naman. I learned some things about it. Like hindi sapat ang kumain ng biscuit kapag sinisikmura. Or maglagay ng liniment sa tiyan. Or kumain ng candy. Or itulog ang sakit. Or kumain ng marami. Lahat 'yan hindi talaga solusyon sa hyperacidity.

Ano ang talagang solusyon sa hyperacidity?
Edi 'yung may Acid Extinguishers: Kremil! Kasi ang acid parang apoy na kapag hindi mo lubusang pinatay, baka mabutas ang tiyan mo sa ulcer. Delikado!

Hindi pala dapat minamaliit ang paninikmura?
Talaga. Akala mo simpleng sakit lang ng tiyan 'yan. Hindi. Pwedeng lumala maging ulcer. Mahirap na 'yon! Kaya dapat at the first sign of hyperacidity, take Kremil na kaagad.

Endorser ka ba ng Kremil?
Obvious ba? :-)
Seriously, I'm proud of it. Kasi malaking tulong talaga siya. That's why I always keep tablets of Kremil in my pocket. Hindi mo alam kung kailan bigla kang manikmura. Ako pa naman sa sobrang busy sometimes I skip meals. Doon malala ang nararamdaman ko.

So what's keeping you busy these days?
Rounin. Taping three days a week which usually lasts until the morning. I go to the gym regularly, maybe two or three times a week. I don't go out or gimik anymore kasi wala na talagang time eh. Usually my friends just come over and drink.

Do you smoke?
Nope. Never.

Why?
I just don't like it.

Pa-good boy effect?
No, seriously, I never tried smoking and never will.

That's great. Kasi alam mo ba nakaka-hyperacidity din ang smoking?
'Yun nga. Besides it doesn't smell good.

Any messages to your fans?
Yes, this: Thank you thank you thank you for all your support and I love you all. And also I would like to thank Kremil for getting me as their endorser kasi i really believe in it and i use it. I'm recommending it also to my fans. Kremil is the high-speed anti-acid!

WILDFLOWE printed sundress (P1,840) and yellow satin puff-sleeve bolero (P1,890)

Last hurrah!

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

IT'S THE TAIL END OF summer, so cloudy, dull days and afternoon showers are to be expected. But not to worry, you still have the chance to indulge in a bit of summer fun before hurricane season sets in.

Don bright, bold, summer fashions as you walk the city streets or head to some tropical resort. Choose prints in vibrant hues that pop out and make a festive statement. Opt for light, breezy fabrics that'll keep you cool, and are feminine and pretty to boot.

Now's the time to max out those shorts and abaca wedges. Not to mention the ubiquitous tank top.

And although the seasons will soon be

LAST/E3

BARDOT white embroidered playsuit (P1,750); Possibility orange floral bag (P1,099)

Celebrate what's left of summer with fashionably fun, multihued pieces in the lightest fabrics

FAITH Hope Love navy printed collarless bolero (P1,299); Basic white trousers (P1,399)

BARDOT mix-up bandeau bikini (P1,750)

watsons
your personal store

3-day sale

may 18 • 19 • 20

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additional 10% off
[illegible] purchase

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Promo not applicable to pharmacy items, mobile pre-paid cards and senior citizen discounts

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1831 Series of 2007

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) or 283 (Smart)

Gingersnaps
THE GREAT SUMMER SALE
April 27 - June 3, 2007
(Except Shangri-la Plaza & Rustan's)
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. [illegible] Series of 2007

FASHION

Hollywood in the bag

CAMERON DIAZ AND DREW Barrymore have been spotted with their super stylish Tod's bags.

The Tod's Nylon Bag seen on Cameron Diaz is available in navy or ivory colors and is made of technical fabric, making the bag both stylish and trendy.

Charlie's Angels co-star Drew Barrymore, meanwhile, had a Tod's tote bag that features three outside pockets, double leather shoulder straps, and a zip top closure.

Another jet-setter who carries her bag everywhere is British actress Sienna Miller, who plays the season's most coveted role, Edie Sedgwick, in the biopic "Factory Girl."

She was seen from New York to LA with her Tod's leather T Bag, with its contrasting stitched leather with gold tone hardware, a triple raised zip close front exterior pockets and side raised exterior pockets, plus a zip top closure with a leather pull tag.

The bag comes with 15-inch double leather handles with 7½-inch drop and gold tone feet at the leather bottom. The T Bag also comes in calfskin with natural canvas and natural vacchetta leather.

Princess Stephanie of Monaco's very own Charlotte Casiraghi is a Tod's junkie herself. She recently attended an event in Paris looking sophisticated in her gold mini dress ensemble with fur while sporting a Tod's Boomerang East-West Bag in silver.

Tod's Audrey Flats, inspired by Audrey Hepburn, were seen on the beautiful X-Men star Rebecca Romijn. The classic flats are available in black and white and are patented with a fancy bow detail.

In the Philippines, Tod's is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. (SSI) and is available at Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Makati.

HOLLYWOOD/ F4

CAMERON Diaz with her Tod's Nylon Bag

SIENNA Miller with her Tod's T Bag in LA

CHARLOTTE Casiraghi parties with her Tod's Boomerang East-West Bag.

SHOPWISE Rock Enroll

Going Back to School has never been this cool as Shopwise brings you Rock Enroll from May 15 to June 17, 2007

Snack Around the Clock

Munch, crunch or sip your way to a chance to win one of 21 HP personal computers. Every purchase of P300 worth of any snacks and beverage item OR P100 worth of participating sponsor products, single receipt, entitles you to join this rockin' promotion.

Elvis is in the Shop!

Meet and greet the legendary King of Rock and Roll every Sunday from 5 to 8 pm in select Shopwise branches. Simply make the minimum purchase to strike a pose with an *Elvis look-alike!*

Araneta May 20, 2007 • **Alabang** May 27, 2007
Libis June 3, 2007 • **Sucat** June 10, 2007

SHOPWISE
The good life you can afford.

See flyers for more details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No 2098, Series of 2007

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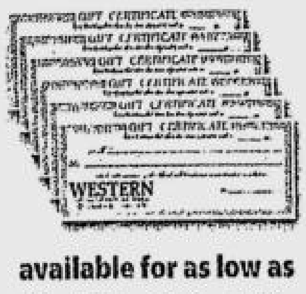

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Per DTI-NCR Permit # 1367, Series of 2007.

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Rice Cooker

OR

Cordless Kettle

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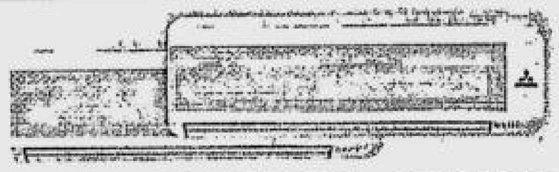


SRK28CSP (1.0 HP)
SRP: P19,530
P3,255.00
6 mos. 0%

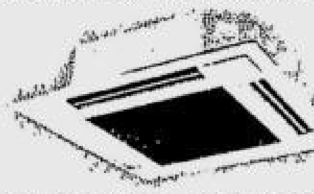
SRK40CSP (1.5 HP)
SRP: P22,680
P3,780.00
6 mos. 0%

SRK50CSA (2.0 HP)
SRP: P32,550
P5,425.00
6 mos. 0%

FDKN258C (2.5 HP)
SRP: P61,500
P10,250.00
6 mos. 0%

FDKN308C (3.0 HP)
SRP: P68,250
P11,375.00
6 mos. 0%

CEILING CASSETTE



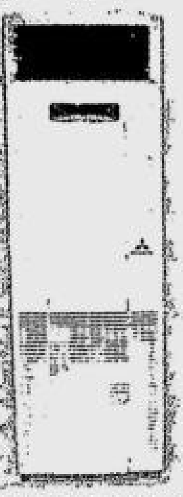
FDTN208C (2.0 HP)
SRP: P76,450
P6,370.83
12 mos. 0%

FDTN258C (2.5 HP)
SRP: P82,500
P6,875.00
12 mos. 0%

FDTN308C (3.0 HP)
SRP: P87,450
P7,287.50
12 mos. 0%

FDTN508C (5.0 HP)
SRP: P99,000
P8,250.00
12 mos. 0%

FLOOR STANDING



FDF308CQ (3.0 HP)
SRP: P74,525
P6,210.42
12 mos. 0%

FDF508CQ (5.0 HP)
SRP: P93,500
P7,791.67
12 mos. 0%

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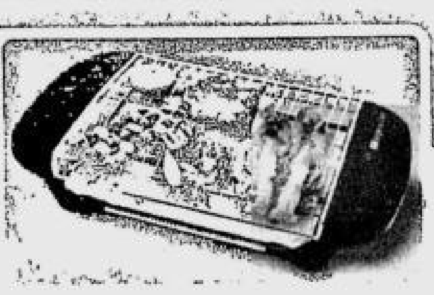
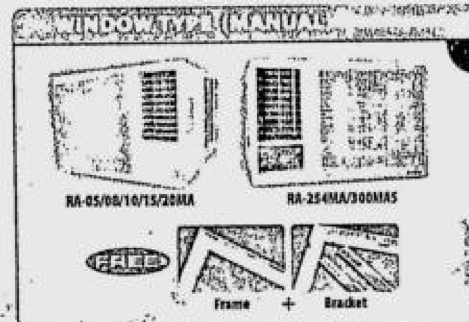
FREE
Electronic Barbeque Grill for Window Type (Manual), & Window Type (Remote) only.



WINDOW TYPE (MANUAL)

Super Silent & Efficient Window Type
• Auto Swing Louver w/ Overheat & Over Electric Current Protection Device • Nano Titanium Anti-Bacterial Filter •

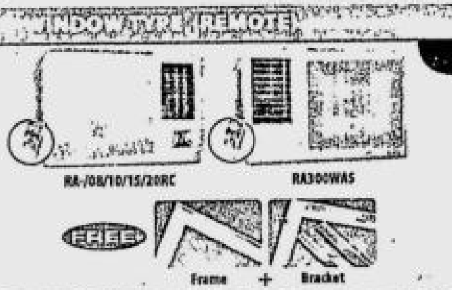


RA-05/08/10/15/20MA RA-254MA/300MAS
FREE Frame + Bracket

	Cooling Capacity (kJ/h) [HP]	E.E.R. (kJ/Wh)	S.R.P.	6 months 0%
RA-05MA	5,700 [0.5]	10.6	P 8,695	P1,449.17
RA-08MA	8,600 [0.8]	10.4	P12,995	P2,165.83
RA-10MA	11,600 [1.0]	10.8	P14,495	P2,415.83
RA-15MA	13,200 [1.5]	10.7	P16,995	P2,832.50
RA-20MA	19,600 [2.0]	9.7	P22,595	P3,765.83
RA-254MA	25,400 [2.5]	9.5	P29,295	P4,882.50
RA-300MAS	31,800 [3.0]	9.0	P32,995	P5,499.17

WINDOW TYPE (REMOTE)

Super Silent & Efficient Window Type
• Remote Control w/ Timer • Auto Swing Louver w/ Nano Titanium Anti-Bacterial Filter • With Self Diagnostic Function • Auto Swing Louver with Overheat, Freezing & Over Electric Current Protection Device

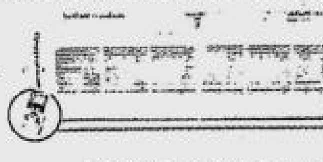


RA-/08/10/15/20RC RA300WAS
FREE Frame + Bracket

	Cooling Capacity (kJ/h) [HP]	E.E.R. (kJ/Wh)	S.R.P.	6 months 0%
RA-08RC	8,600 [0.8]	10.4	P13,995	P2,332.50
RA-10RC	11,600 [1.0]	10.8	P16,495	P2,749.17
RA-15RC	13,200 [1.5]	10.7	P18,995	P3,165.83
RA-20RC	19,600 [2.0]	9.7	P23,495	P3,915.83
RA-300WAS	31,800 [3.0]	9.0	P33,995	P5,665.83

SPLIT TYPE AIR CONDITIONERS

Super Silent & Efficient Split System
• Remote Control w/ Timer w/ Fuzzy Control • Auto Swing Louver w/ Nano Titanium Anti-Bacterial Filter • With Self Diagnostic Function • With Overheat, Freezing & Over Electric Current Protection Device

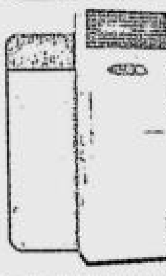


FREE Installation up to 10ft.

	Cooling Capacity (kJ/h) [HP]	E.E.R. (kJ/Wh)	S.R.P.	6 months 0%
RAC/RAS-08RC	9,000 [0.8]	11.5	P22,995	P3,832.50
RAC/RAS-10RC	10,600 [1.0]	10.8	P24,995	P4,165.83
RAC/RAS-15RC	13,200 [1.5]	10.6	P26,995	P4,499.17
RAC/RAS-20RC	19,300 [2.0]	10.5	P34,495	P5,749.17
RAC/RAS-25RC	25,400 [2.5]	10.3	P38,995	P6,499.17

SLIM TYPE AIR-COOLED PACKAGE

Super Silent & Efficient Slim Air-Cooled System
• MICOM Type (Remote Control) • Scroll Compressor • High Pressure Switch • With Fuse for Motor & Control Circuit



		S.R.P.
RAC3AB3/RPS3A3	3Tons 1 Phase	P55,000.00
RAC5AB3/RPS5A3	5Tons 1 Phase	P76,500.00
RAC5AB3/RPS5A3	5Tons 3 Phase	P72,000.00

Washing Machine

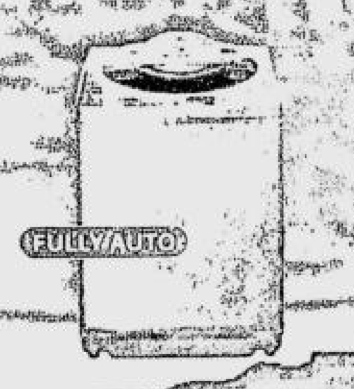
FREE
HITACHI Inspire the Next

Coffee Kettle Set
for every purchase of one (1) Refrigerator or one (1) Washing Machine unit.

3-Change

PS-650DJ
6 Kg. Capacity (Dry Load)
Air Jet Dry
Super Jet Wave
3-Level Water Selector
Soak Timer
Liquid Balance
Super Fast Spin
Anti-Bacterial Lint Filter
SRP: P9,495
P1,582.50
6 mos. 0%

PS-760DJ
7 Kg. Capacity (Dry Load)
Air Jet Dry
Super Jet Wave
5-Level Water Selector
Soak Timer
Liquid Balance
Super Fast Spin
Anti-Bacterial Lint Filter
SRP: P10,495
P1,749.17
6 mos. 0%



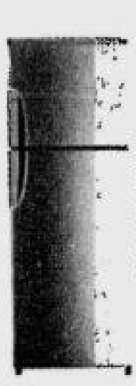
SF-70FJ
7 Kg. Capacity (Dry Load)
Super Clean Wash
Air Jet Dry
Super Jet Wave
Liquid Balance
Nano Titanium Filter
900 RPM Fast Spin
SRP: P17,495
P2,915.83
6 mos. 0%

No-Frost Refrigerator

FREE
HITACHI Inspire the Next

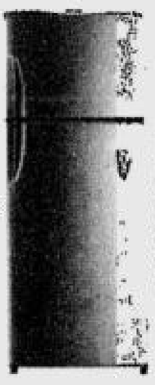
Coffee Kettle Set
for every purchase of one (1) Refrigerator or one (1) Washing Machine unit.

3-Change

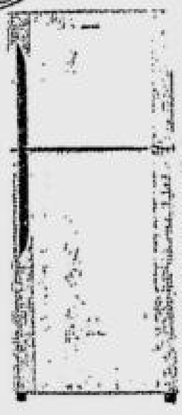


R-26AP5
9.5 cu. ft.
No-frost
Cool Jet Wrap Plus
Non-CFC
Nano-Titanium Filter
SRP: P19,395
P3,232.50
6 mos. 0%

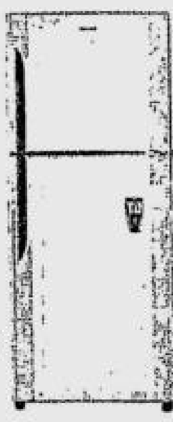
R-30AP5
11 cu. ft.
No Frost
Cool Jet Wrap Plus
Non-CFC
Nano-Titanium Filter
SRP: P21,095
P3,515.83
6 mos. 0%



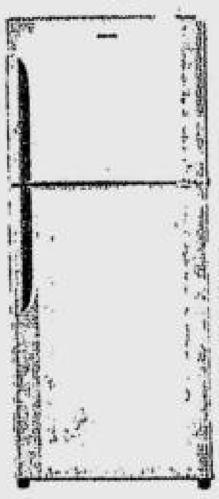
R-30AP5W
11 cu. ft.
No Frost
Cool Jet Wrap Plus
Non-CFC
Nano-Titanium Filter
Water Dispenser
SRP: P22,595
P3,765.83
6 mos. 0%



R-Z40AP6
14 cu. ft.
No Frost
Cool Jet Wrap Plus
Minus-Zero Cooling
Non-CFC
Nano-Titanium Filter
Tempered Glass Shelf
SRP: P27,195
P4,532.50
6 mos. 0%



R-Z40AP6W
14 cu. ft.
No Frost
Cool Jet Wrap Plus
Minus-Zero Cooling
Non-CFC
Nano-Titanium Filter
Tempered Glass Shelf
Water Dispenser
SRP: P28,695
P4,782.50
6 mos. 0%



R-Z57AP6
20 cu. ft.
No Frost
Cool Jet Wrap Plus
Minus-Zero Cooling
Non-CFC
Nano-Titanium Filter
Tempered Glass Shelf
SRP: P33,695
P5,615.83
6 mos. 0%

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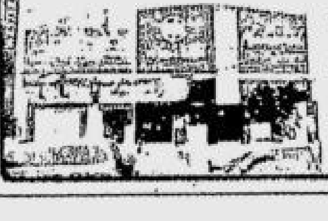

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726-7855
727-2969
• Fax: 727-4187

Sparkling WEGA FLAT COLOR TV

ADD P300 for a TV Rack

ADD P3499 for a DVD Player

KV-BZ212N50 21″
- Intelligent Picture Plus
- Intelligent Picture Signal Indicator
- Intelligent Signal Booster
- Dual Bottom Speaker Design
- AV Stereo

SRP: P9,290 **P774.17** 12 mos. 0%

KV-SW212N50 21″
- Intelligent Picture Plus
- Intelligent Picture Signal Indicator
- Intelligent Signal Booster
- AV Stereo

SRP: P10,790 **P899.17** 12 mos. 0%

KV-SW212N60 21″
- Intelligent Picture Plus
- Intelligent Picture Signal Indicator
- Intelligent Signal Booster
- MTS Stereo
- FM Radio

SRP: P11,790 **P982.50** 12 mos. 0%

KV-SW212N63 21″ with Subwoofer
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- Intelligent Picture Signal Indicator
- Intelligent Signal Booster
- MTS Stereo: 4W+4W+12W
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- FM Radio

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DCR-DVD808
- 4.0 Mega Pixels Still Image Recording
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- 40× Optical Zoom, 2000× Digital Zoom

Less P4000 on any Sony DVD Player
18 mos 0%
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- CZ Vario-Tessar Lens (30mm)
- 40× Optical Zoom, 2000× Digital Zoom

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- CZ Vario-Tessar Lens (30mm)
- 40× Optical Zoom, 2000× Digital Zoom

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- 1/6″ 1.1 Mega Pixels CCD
- CZ Vario-Tessar Lens (30mm)
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DSC-T100
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- 31MB Internal Memory

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- BIONZ Image Processor
- 31MB Internal Memory

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P5000 Printer GC/ HDPS GC &
P1000 HD Output Cable/ HD Station

DSC-W55
- Effective 7.2 Mega Pixel
- High Sensitivity ISO1000
- 2.5″LCD
- Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar Lens
- Real Imaging Processor
- 56MB Internal Memory

P 1,111.06 18 mos 0% P 19,999

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FREE!
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& P5000 Printer GC/ HDPS GC

DSC-W35
- Effective 7.2 Mega Pixel
- High Sensitivity ISO1000
- 2.0″LCD
- Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar Lens
- Real Imaging Processor
- 56MB Internal Memory

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- High Sensitivity ISO1000
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- 24MB Internal Memory
- STAMINA Battery

P 1,166.58 12 mos 0% P 13,999

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& P5000 Printer GC/ HDPS GC

DSC-S650
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- High Sensitivity ISO1000
- 2.0″LCD
- 24MB Internal Memory
- STAMINA Battery

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SRP: P74,990
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P20,000 on Home Theater System
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KLV-40S200A 40″
SRP: P144,990
P12,082.50
12 mos. 0%

P20,000 on Home Theater System
P10,000 on DVD-HD Recorder
[illegible] on Alpha/ Cyber-shot/ Handycam/ CRT TV
[illegible] on Personal Audio Accessories/ CD Walkman

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HD ready
Pixel Plus
2 HD & Ambilight
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With Pixel Plus
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LCD with Pixel Plus
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- Playback Media: DivX, DVD, DVD+R/ +RW, DVD-R/-RW, SVCD, Video CD, MP3-CD, WMA, Picture CD

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- Plays CD, (S)VCD, DVD, DVD+R/RW, DVD-R/RW
- Plays MP3, WMA and JPEG digital camera photos
- Karaoke for endless karaoke entertainment at home

PET-830
8.5″ Widescreen Portable Tablet-style DVD Player
- DivX, MPEG4, DVD, VCD

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AZ1017 **P2,990**
- 20-track CD programmal'
- FM/MW stereo tuner
- Autostop stereo tape deck
- Built-in microphone

AZ1836 **P4,990**
- One touch MP3 digital recording
- FM/MW stereo tuner
- Multi-functional LCD display

AZ5737
- Plays DVD & Picture CD
- FM/MW stereo tuner
- Autostop stereo tape deck
- Bass Reflex speakers

SRP: P5,990 **P1,996.67** 3 mos. 0%

AZ2536
- Video CD2.0 playback
- Karaoke Function
- Bass Reflex speakers
- MP3-CD,CD-R/RW compatible

SRP: P5,490 **P915.00** 6 mos. 0%

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FWD876
Ultimate power with 5.1 Surround Sound
- 8000W PMPO

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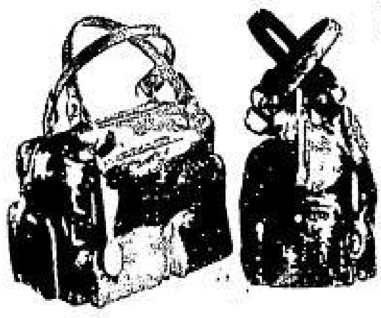
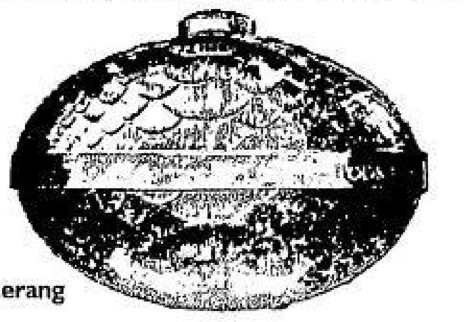


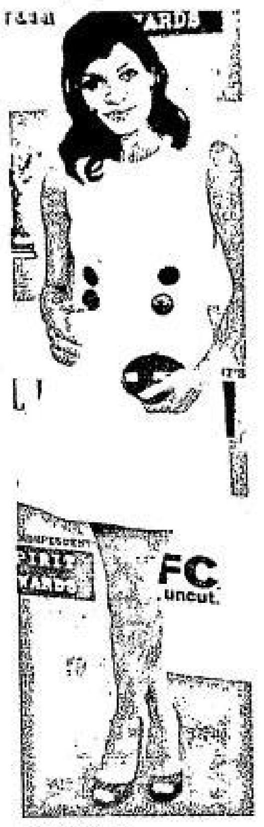
TOD'S
T Bag



TOD'S Boomerang
Pochette

Hollywood in the bag

From page F1



ROSARIO Dawsonwith a Tod's Boomerang Bag at the Spirit Awards

REBECCA Romijn is spotted wearing Tod's Audrey Leopard Flats

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Folk Song and Dances
May 18 to 20, 5PM
Fountain Area

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Orosa Atrium

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Art of Tea
Folk Song and Dances
May 25 to 26, 4PM
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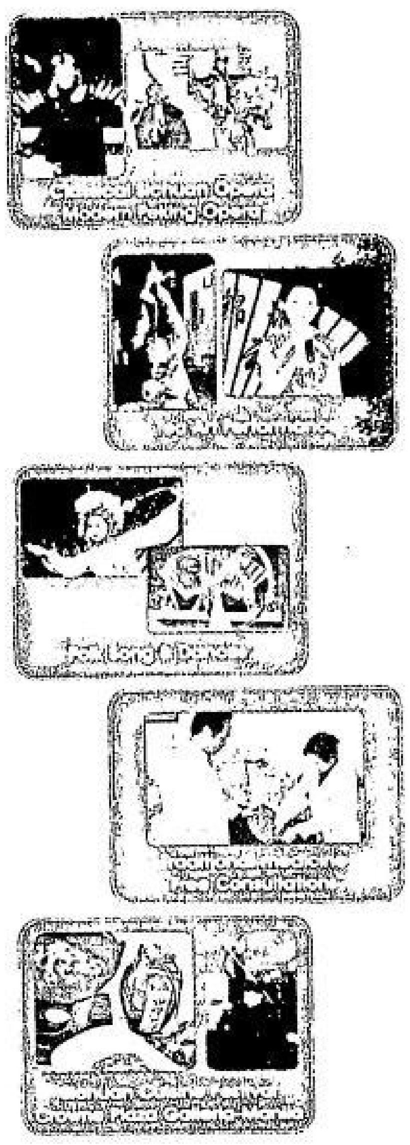

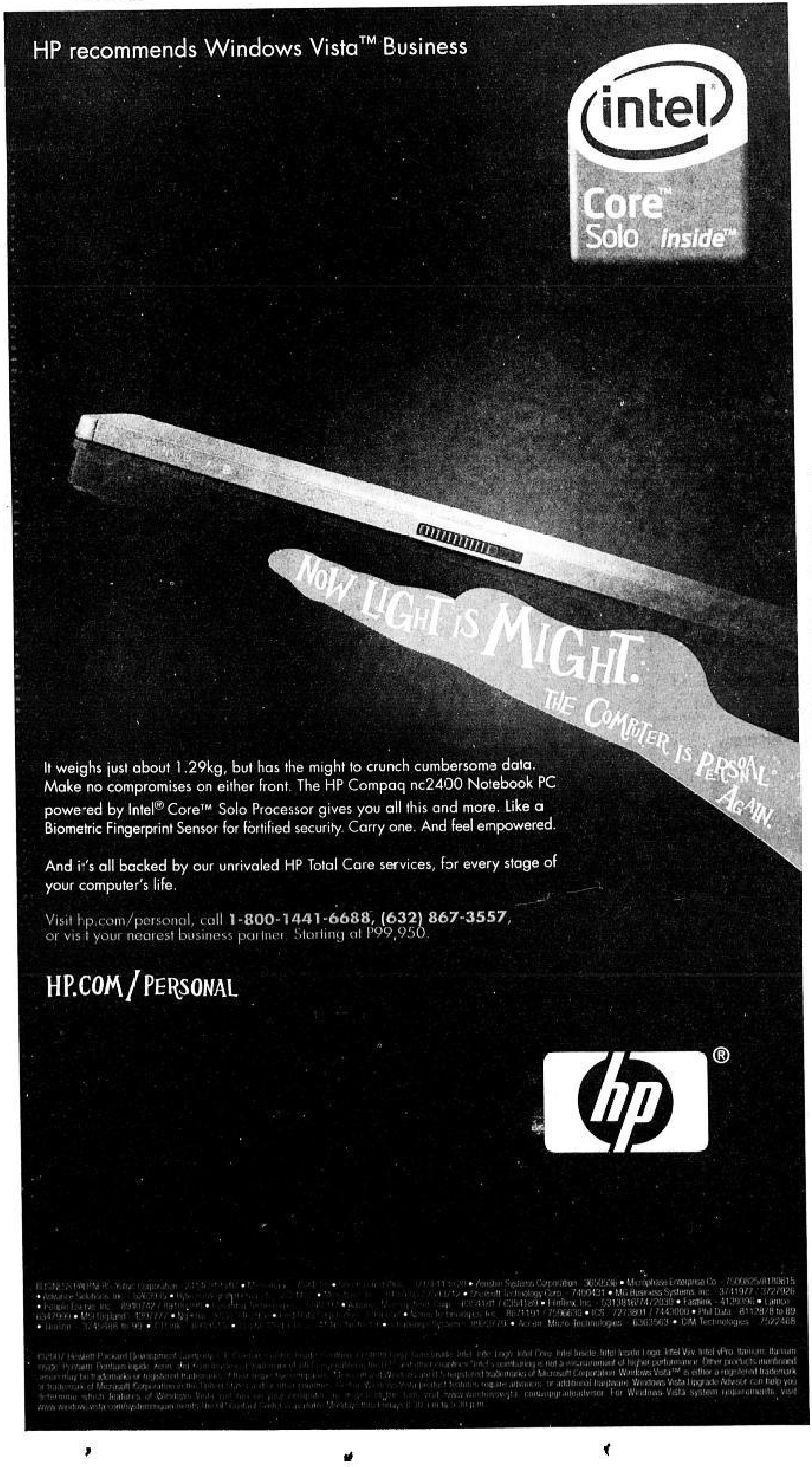

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Don't forget to match your foundation with your skin tone.

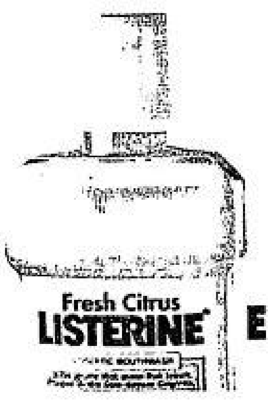
Don't forget to *not* match your eye shadow with your eye color.

Don't forget the wrong concealer says *Take a look at this!*

Don't forget to put on blush in places where you actually blush.

Don't forget beauty sleep doesn't mean sleeping with makeup on.

Don't forget brushing alone is not enough.



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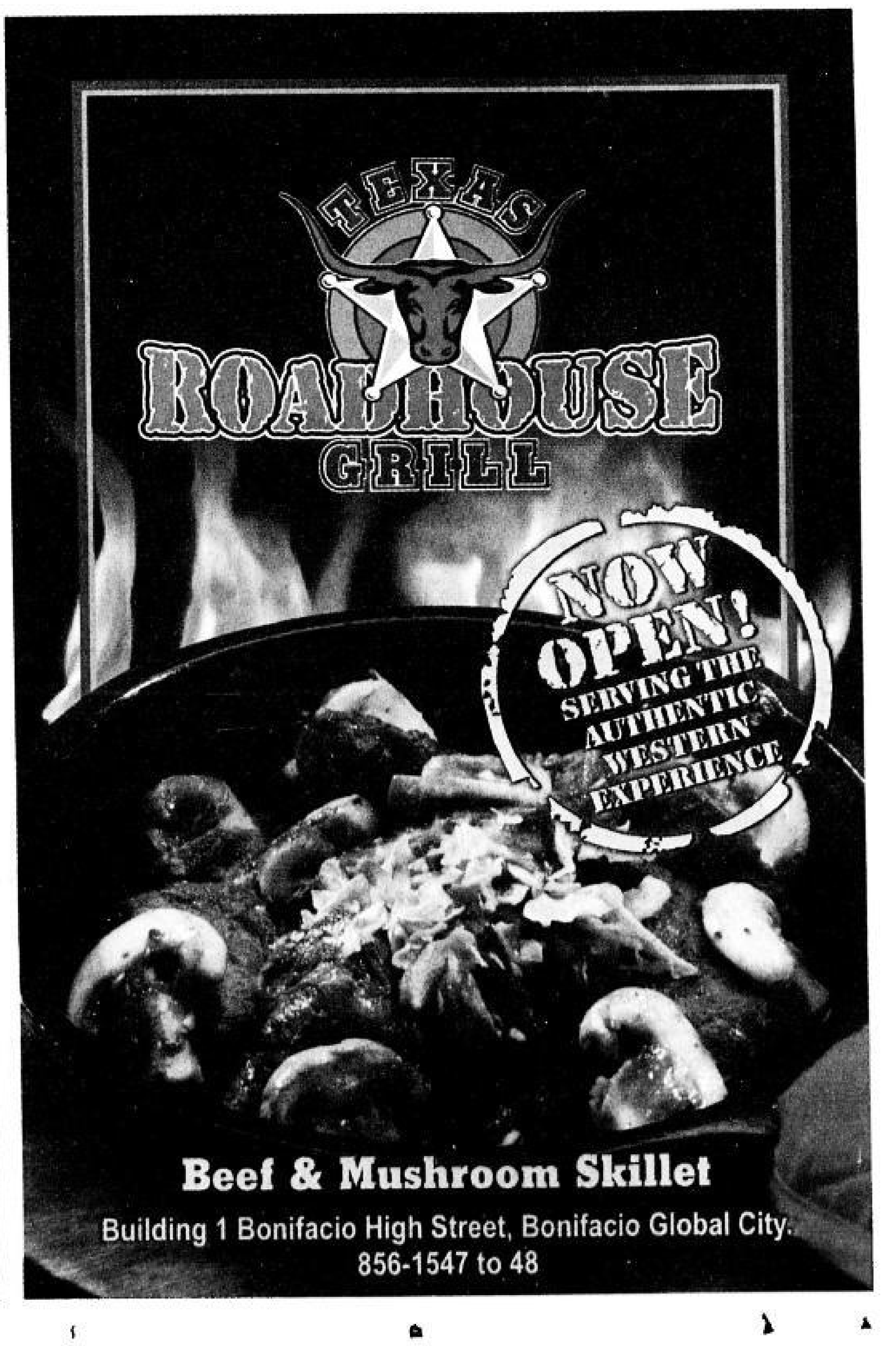

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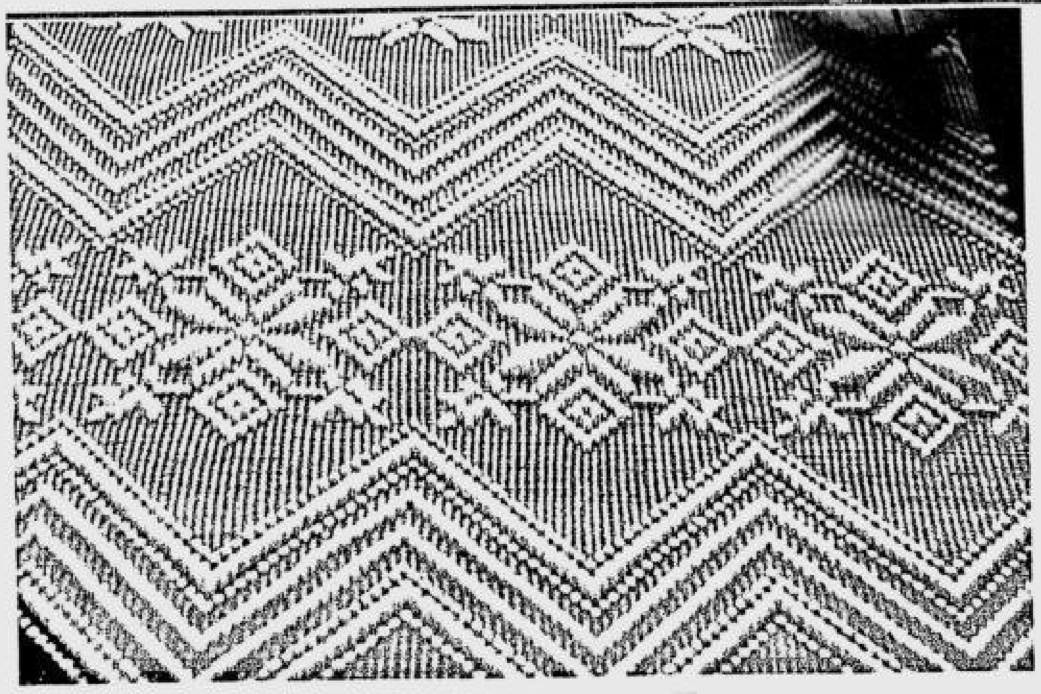


POPULAR *palaka* design of *abel* Iloko

So much money is going into tacky infrastructure, while crafts are missing out on lifestyle markets

LIFE-STYLED
Thelma Sioson San Juan

Now, if only every politician had a 'BIR'

WITH THE ELECTION dust not about to settle any time soon—politics being endemic like pollution in this country—here's a thought from our trips this summer: Politicians, with literally tons of money at their disposal, are designing the culture and lifestyle landscape.

Feudal lords even in this postmodern era, they wield near-absolute power in everything. Politicians have become the grand architects of their fiefdoms, be it a mega-city or a small town. Make that wannabe architects. They are frenetically spending the people's money, literally designing what we see and what lifestyle is disposable to us.

First, they plaster giant tarpaulins of their faces at entry points of their city or town, so that those are the first and last images you see. (When did they get this habit? Marcos era?)

Then you can guess instantly which design era the mayor/governor is partial to, based on the structures they've built. Actually, you can't pin down the era. It's mostly a mix-match of looks, usually grand, artsy and gaudy-massive concrete buildings in white or "Mediterranean" colors, with giant columns and blue or green glass windows. Then there are the ubiquitous arches and lampposts.

The greater the "edifice complex" of the mayor/governor, the tackier, it seems, is the culture and lifestyle legacy we will pass on to the next generations.

It's not just about aesthetics, but about the Filipino values which should define our children as a generation.

Take, for instance, our trip to Santiago in Ilocos Sur. Santiago is known for the Ilocano *abel* or weave. Driving into town you're greeted by a long series of decorative concrete pavilions lining the coast. The governor, perhaps inspired by Manila's Baywalk, must have been anticipating an influx of tourists.

At the end of the pavilions are an almost always empty weaving center and a hotel resort. Either the tourist traffic did not meet expectations or the lifestyle/business plan was so off the mark because today the pavilions just showcase the poverty of the place. Huddled in them are women squatting, plucking off lice from each other's hair, men sleeping on benches. At night, it's a "cruising" place.

It's an irony that the edifices built to signify progress are now a limbo of concrete, encasing the community's social backwardness, if not ills.

Yet in lowly houses around it live the town's best weavers. In one, we found the women toiling away at their looms, spinning a rather chic weave. Hot pink and yellow is the trademark *palaka* design of Ilocos, so intricate and thick it's like brocade, as writer and *abel* collector **Rene Gualto** noted.

The weaver joins these four panels into a bedspread. (The joinery is also a province's design heritage, be it Ilocos or Mountain Province.) We bought a panel which we knew would make a good sofa accent. We also got a bedspread of old-rose weave on one side and white on the other, which Rene said had what seemed like a Maranao-inspired design, not typical of Ilocos weave at all. Our finds cost a little over P1,000—a steal.

Prettified

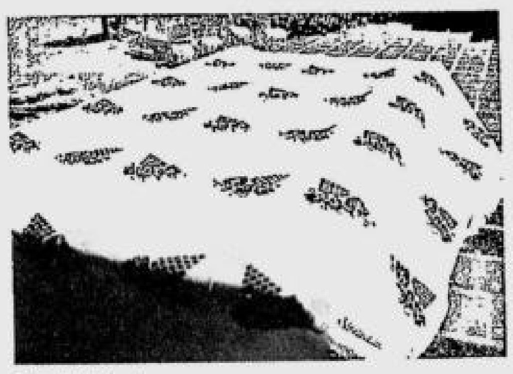
From Santiago we went to the weavers in Santa. It was our first time to see weavers at work in their homes—actually cramped boxes of rough hollow blocks—and not in prettified tourism centers. The woman weavers had the kitchen stove to their side so they could cook as they wove, the baby cradle not far from it, so they could tend to the infant.

Where were the men? That late afternoon in another town, we espied men around a table of Ginebra bottle and *pulutan*.

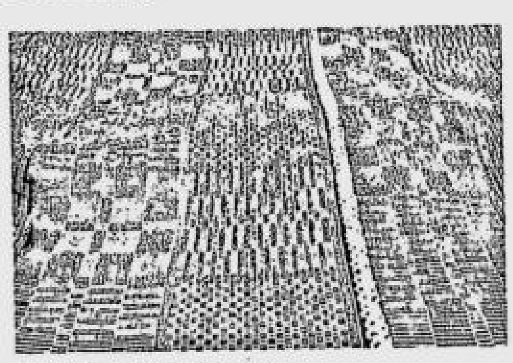
The women are workhorses. The old veteran weavers can weave as many as 10 meters a day, the younger ones only seven. Their weaves could meet a demand for accents and accessories in the world fashion/home market.

Ilocos is famous for *binakol* design; this optical-illusion pattern, the native folk believe, helps ward off evil spirits who are waylaid into the pattern, away from the house

NOW, IF ONLY/ G3



GRAPE design



FAMOUS *binakol* design

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HAIR AND BEYOND

JOEY MARQUEZ

TESSA PRIETO-VALDES

Talkshow host and comedian **Joey Marquez** doesn't seem to mind being the butt of jokes in movies and sitcoms, but in reality, *"Tsong"* can be quite conscious about his looks. When he started to experience extreme hairloss at the age of 35, he became a bit concerned. "My hair started to shed during the time when I was in public office. You can just imagine, you've been tasked to solve the problems of the city government. Stressful."

Being familiar with gags and punch lines, you'd expect Joey to be immune to the occasional taunting most balding people experience. "Some people called me Monsignor, because my bald spot was increasing to the size of a Monsignor's cap. Eventually, I tried to not let it bother me. But it made me lose confidence. *Siyempre*, with less hair you look older *eh*. And nobody wants to get old." He adds, "I intend to be classic. Not old!"

When someone referred him to Svenson, he hesitated at first. "I thought they sold wigs. And I'd rather die than wear a wig! When I was told it wasn't, I agreed to try it out. After only 3 treatments, I saw a big difference."

For Interior Designer **Tessa Prieto-Valdes**, hair is more than a physical feature. "It's like an accessory! I make sure that my hair matches my outfit. I'm really vain with my hair because my total look depends on it."

Her constant styling and coloring, however, became the cause of her hair damage and slight thinning. "My hair strands are really fine and thin to begin with. And thinning hair is not very flattering. Healthy hair makes one look younger. At my age, I'd want to always look fresh and young!"

Tessa adds, "I tried lots of shampoos and hot oil treatments before but I felt that the root of the problem was not treated. The Svenson treatments actually feel like they penetrate the scalp and strengthen the roots."

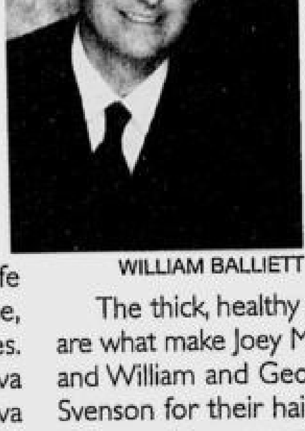
Even her stylist got excited with the results. Tessa narrates, "My stylist Victor loves my new hair! He said now he can do more creations with it. It's so important for me to have lots of hair! It's wonderful that Svenson has such great treatments!"

Married couples have their share of disagreements, but husband and wife **William** and **Georgina Diaz-Balliett** both agree that losing hair is no laughing matter. When William had a problem with excessive hair fall, his wife Georgina immediately took notice. She told me, "Hey your hair is falling out," William narrates. Coincidentally the couple is also friends with Eva Abesamis, who told them about Svenson. "Eva had really nice, thick hair," Georgina exclaims. "It made me want to try Svenson out myself!"

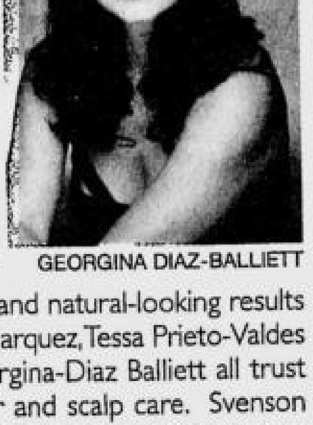
Georgina, an avid tennis player, noticed her hair became dry and damaged because of the constant exposure to the sun whenever she played. "My hair has naturally thin strands, but it had a lot of volume. But there was a time when it lost its volume! I tried to use mousse and thickening shampoos, but those were just temporary things. I've noticed getting a hot oil isn't even a temporary solution! The Svenson treatments work because they're concentrated in the scalp. That's why there's more body even in the scalp area."

William jests that he may be to blame for Georgina's hair problems: "She might have needed hair treatments as I give her stress from time to time, as any husband does. But seriously, I think her hair looks great now. And she's so happy about it."

Georgina compliments her husband's hair as well. "Have you seen his hair? It looks so natural."



WILLIAM BALLIETT

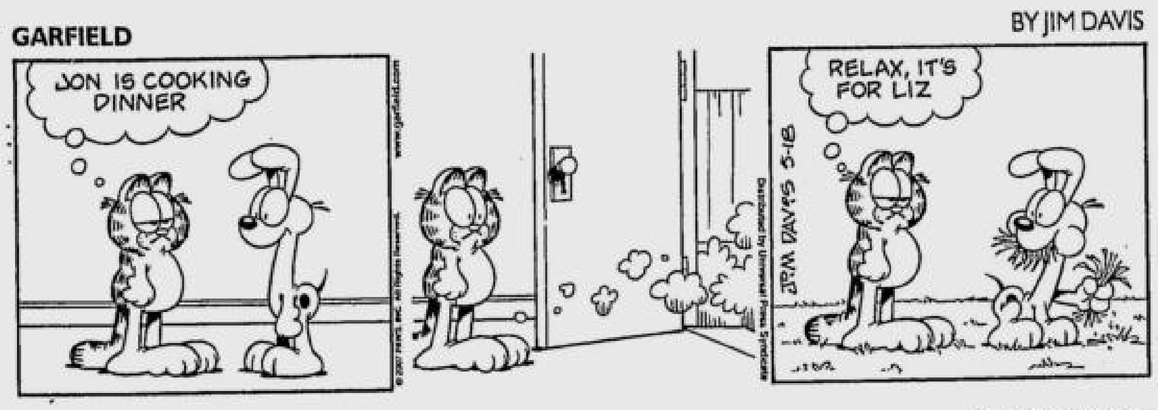


GEORGINA DIAZ-BALLIETT

The thick, healthy and natural-looking results are what make Joey Marquez, Tessa Prieto-Valdes and William and Georgina-Diaz Balliett all trust Svenson for their hair and scalp care. Svenson offers a wide range of hair and scalp treatments for both men and women, whether it is early or severe hairloss, hair damage or scalp irritations. **Call 892-4247 for a free consultation.**

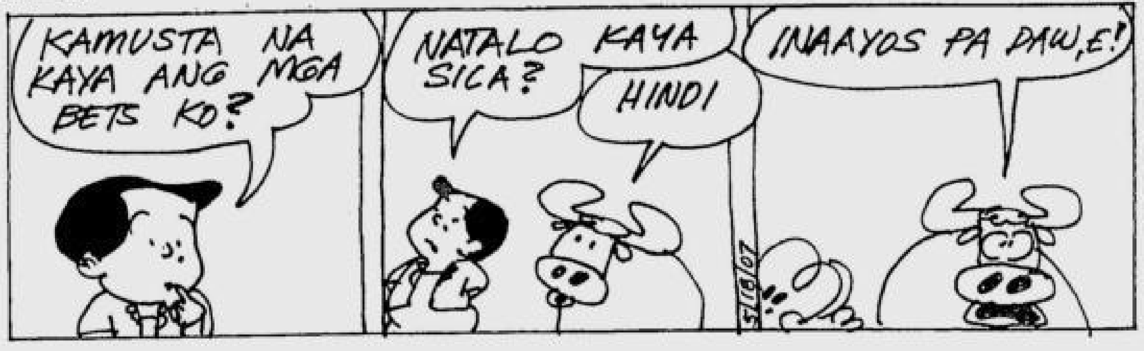
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


JON IS COOKING DINNER
RELAX, IT'S FOR LIZ
JPM DAVIS 5-18

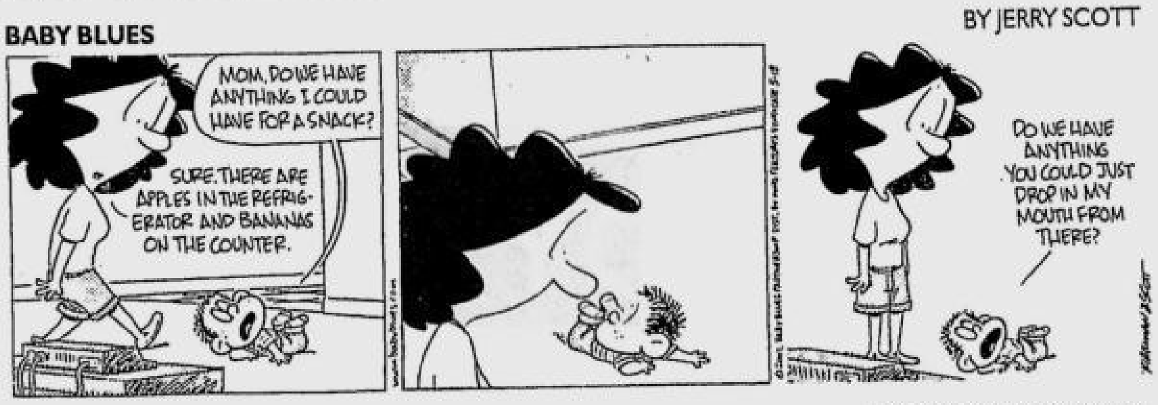
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KAMUSTA NA KAYA ANG MGA BETS KO?
NATALO KAYA SICA?
HINDI
INAAYOS PA DAW, E!
5/18/07

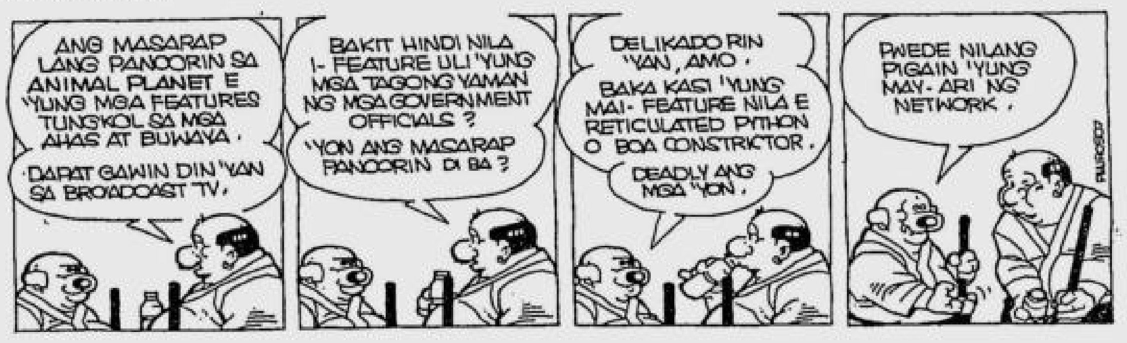
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MOM, DO WE HAVE ANYTHING I COULD HAVE FOR A SNACK?
SURE. THERE ARE APPLES IN THE REFRIGERATOR AND BANANAS ON THE COUNTER.
DO WE HAVE ANYTHING YOU COULD JUST DROP IN MY MOUTH FROM THERE?

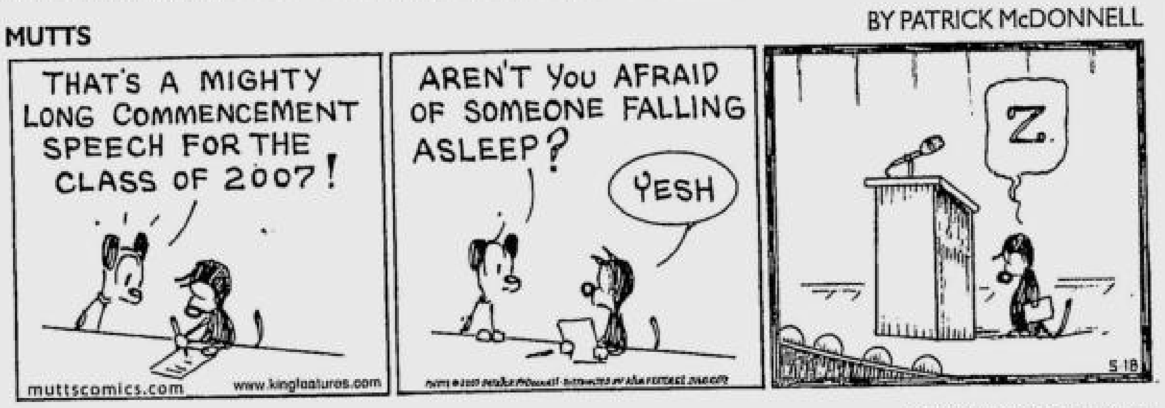
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANG MASARAP LANG PANOORIN SA ANIMAL PLANET E 'YUNG MGA FEATURES TUNGKOL SA MGA AHAS AT BUWAYA.
DAPAT GAWIN DIN 'YAN SA BROADCAST TV.
BAKIT HINDI NILA I-FEATURE ULI 'YUNG MGA TAGONG YAMAN NG MGA GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS?
'YON ANG MASARAP PANOORIN DI BA?
DELIKADO RIN 'YAN, AMO.
BAKA KASI 'YUNG MAI-FEATURE NILA E RETICULATED PYTHON O BOA CONSTRICTOR.
DEADLY ANG MGA 'YON.
PWEDE NILANG PIGAIN 'YUNG MAY-ARI NG NETWORK.

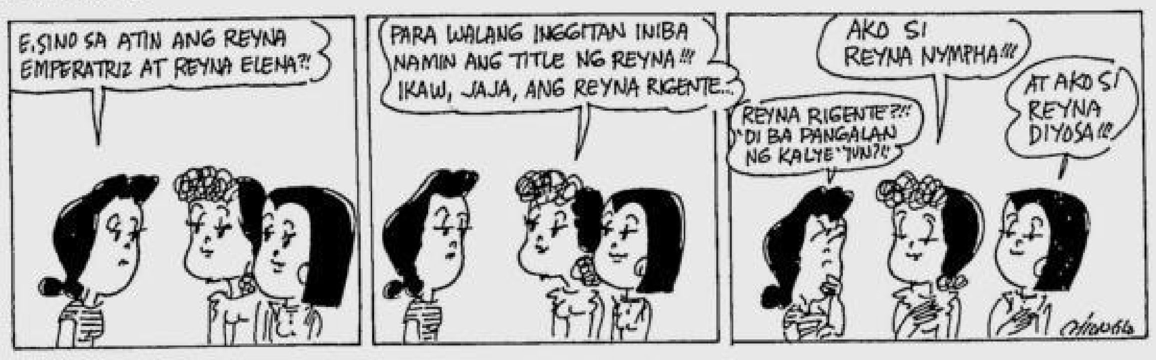
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THAT'S A MIGHTY LONG COMMENCEMENT SPEECH FOR THE CLASS OF 2007!
AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF SOMEONE FALLING ASLEEP?
YESH
Z.
muttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com
5-18

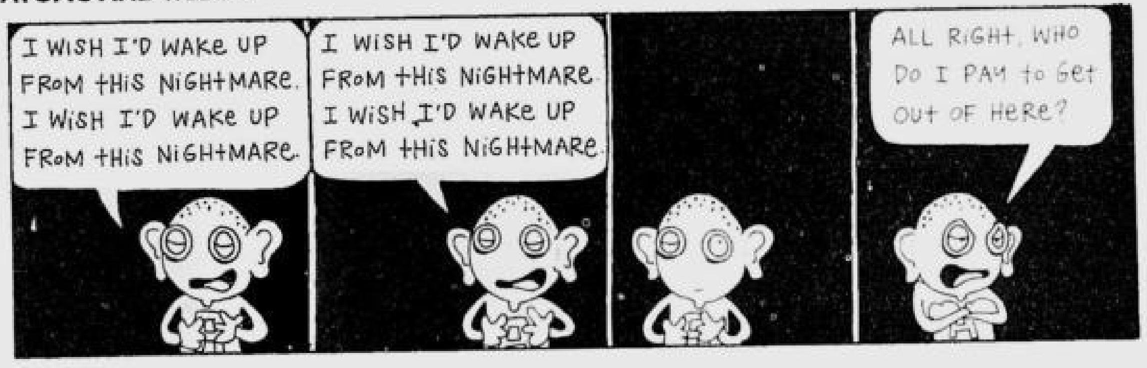
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


E, SINO SA ATIN ANG REYNA EMPERATRIZ AT REYNA ELENA?!
PARA WALANG INGGITAN INIBA NAMIN ANG TITLE NG REYNA!!! IKAW, JAJA, ANG REYNA RIGENTE...
AKO SI REYNA NYMPHA!!!
REYNA RIGENTE?!! 'DI BA PANGALAN NG KALYE 'YUN?!
AT AKO SI REYNA DIYOSA!!!

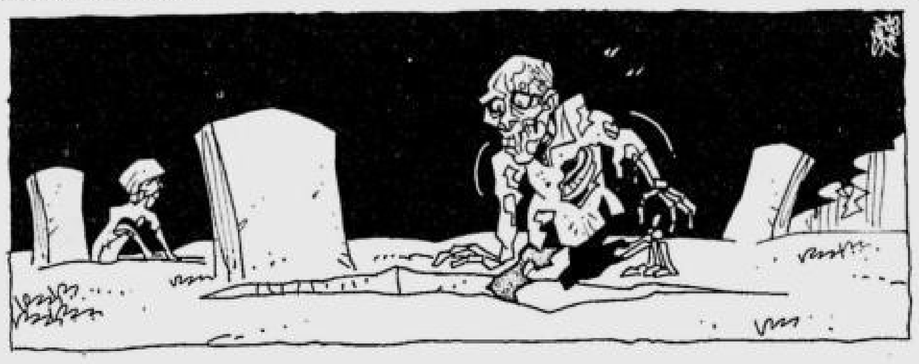
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I WISH I'D WAKE UP FROM THIS NIGHTMARE. I WISH I'D WAKE UP FROM THIS NIGHTMARE.
I WISH I'D WAKE UP FROM THIS NIGHTMARE I WISH I'D WAKE UP FROM THIS NIGHTMARE
ALL RIGHT, WHO DO I PAY TO GET OUT OF HERE?

DIVINE COMEDY

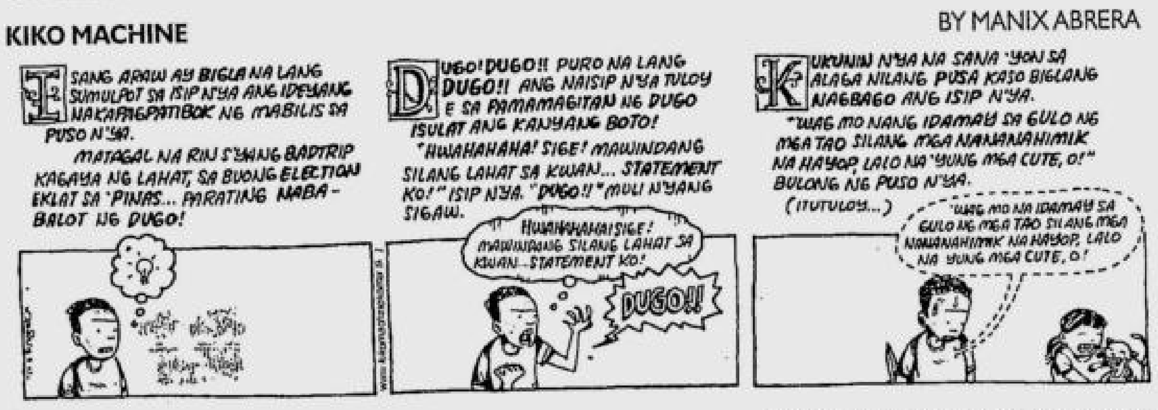
BY STEVEN PABALINAS



AT NAG-SIBALIKAN NA SA KANI-KANILANG MGA LIBINGAN ANG MGA BANGKAY NA BUMOTO SA ELEKSYON

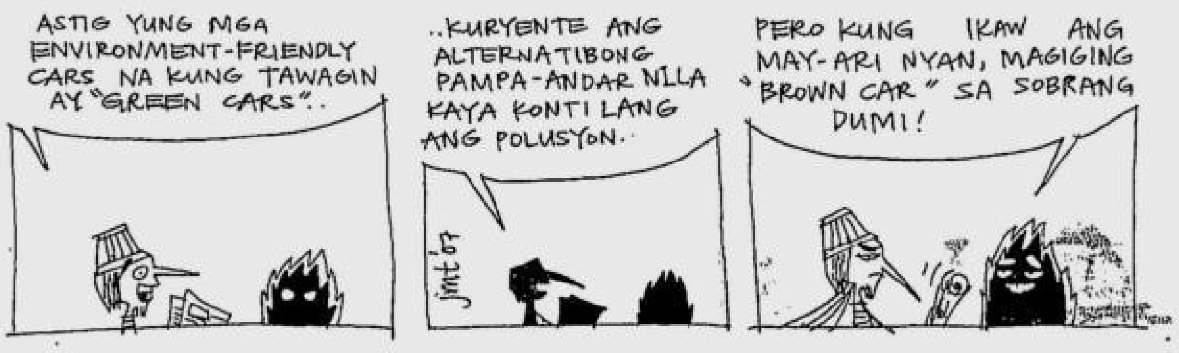
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


ISANG ARAW AY BIGLA NA LANG SUMULPOT SA ISIP N'YA ANG IDEYANG NAKAPAGPATIBOK NG MABILIS SA PUSO N'YA.
MATAGAL NA RIN S'YANG BADTRIP KAGAYA NG LAHAT, SA BUONG ELECTION EKLAT SA 'PINAS... PARATING NABABALOT NG DUGO!
DUGO! DUGO!! PURO NA LANG DUGO!! ANG NAISIP N'YA TULOY E SA PAMAMAGITAN NG DUGO ISULAT ANG KANYANG BOTO!
"HUWAHAHAHA! SIGE! MAWINDANG SILANG LAHAT SA KWAN... STATEMENT KO!" ISIP N'YA. "DUGO!!" MULI N'YANG SIGAW.
HUWAHAHAHA! SIGE! MAWINDANG SILANG LAHAT SA KWAN... STATEMENT KO!
DUGO!!
KUKUNIN N'YA NA SANA 'YON SA ALAGA NILANG PUSA KASO BIGLANG NAGBAGO ANG ISIP N'YA.
"WAG MO NANG IDAMAY SA GULO NG MGA TAO SILANG MGA NANANAHIMIK NA HAYOP, LALO NA 'YUNG MGA CUTE, O!" BULONG NG PUSO N'YA.
(ITUTULOY...)
'WAG MO NA IDAMAY SA GULO NG MGA TAO SILANG MGA NANANAHIMIK NA HAYOP, LALO NA YUNG MGA CUTE, O!

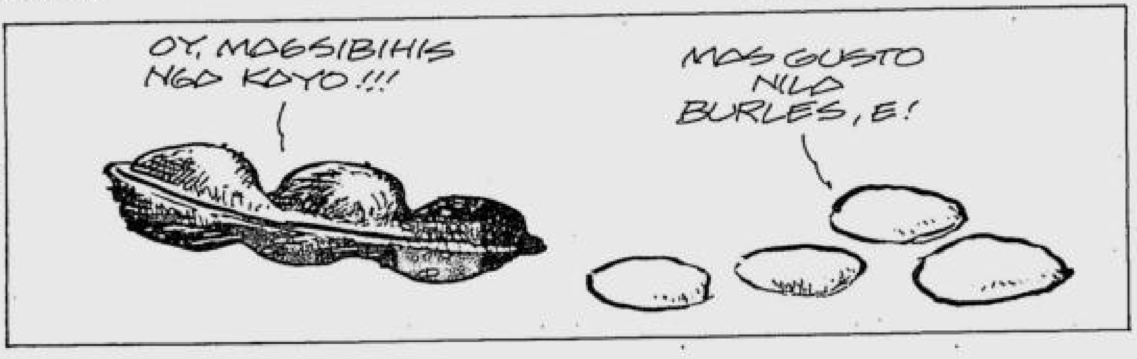
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ASTIG YUNG MGA ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY CARS NA KUNG TAWAGIN AY "GREEN CARS"..
..KURYENTE ANG ALTERNATIBONG PAMPA-ANDAR NILA KAYA KONTI LANG ANG POLUSYON.
PERO KUNG IKAW ANG MAY-ARI NYAN, MAGIGING "BROWN CAR" SA SOBRANG DUMI!
jmt 07

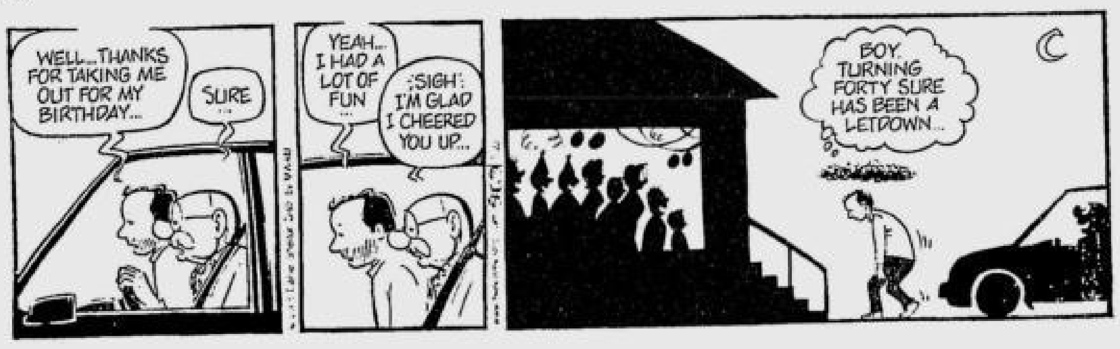
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


OY, MAGSIBIHIS NGA KAYO!!!
MAS GUSTO NILA BURLES, E!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WELL...THANKS FOR TAKING ME OUT FOR MY BIRTHDAY...
SURE
YEAH... I HAD A LOT OF FUN
:SIGH: I'M GLAD I CHEERED YOU UP...
BOY. TURNING FORTY SURE HAS BEEN A LETDOWN...

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Mythical Greek giant
6 Letters for the wapiti club?
10 Samson's pride
14 Revere
15 Building add-ons
16 Arizona city on the Colorado
17 Creases
18 Ill-mannered
19 Medicine
20 Invariables
22 Make blank
23 Thorn site
24 Greek letter
25 Caesar's eggs
26 Fragrant oil
28 Watercraft
32 Early video game company
35 Like a blue moon
37 Dynamic start?
38 1999 Ian McKellen film
41 Idle or Lindros
42 Elevator pioneer
43 Sentimental novelist Fannie
44 This or that
46 Identifier
48 School of thought
49 Antonym: abbr.
50 Nothing in Nogales
54 Senior fetes
57 Ceases to flow
59 Emerald Isle
60 Burn slightly
61 European nation
62 Lab gel
63 "The Caine Mutiny" author
64 Figure out
65 Followers of tra
66 High crags
67 Small cove

DOWN
1 Sprinkles after a shower?
2 Bonehead
3 Heavy British weight
4 Three of 38A
5 Nutcracker suite?
6 The Divine Sarah
7 Three of 38A
8 Reo producer
9 Opp. of WNW
10 Three of 38A
11 Mystique
12 Stern competitor
13 Fashion craze
21 MOMA word
22 First of a gender
25 Stove chamber
27 Aunt in Toledo
29 Prophet
30 Muffs it
31 Kind of soul or sheep
32 "A Death in the Family" author
33 Actress Spelling
34 Collier's entrance
36 Civil Rights pioneer
39 "Cheers" character
40 H. Rider Haggard novel
45 Serpentine shape
47 Vehicle stat
51 In any way
52 Dig (into)
53 Up to this point
54 Sound of thunder
55 Capital of Latvia
56 Uttered
57 Scat!
58 Unless, in law
60 100 lbs.

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
14					■	15				■	16			
17					■	18				■	19			
20					21				■	22				
23				■	24			■	25			■	■	■
■	■	■	26	27				■	28			29	30	31
32	33	34			■	35		36		■	37			
38					39					40				
41				■	42				■	43				
44				45		■	46		47			■	■	■
■	■	■	48			■	49			■	50	51	52	53
54	55	56			■	57				58				
59				■	60				■	61				
62				■	63				■	64				
65				■	66				■	67				

By Edgar Fontaine
Dighton, MA

5/18/07

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

O	W	E	S	■	H	E	R	B	■	N	A	A	C	P
L	E	V	I	■	E	T	A	L	■	E	I	D	E	R
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5/18/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're very idealistic and are often committed to a particular cause. You always fight for the underdog or the side you believe to be just. You're resourceful and productive because you're creative and imaginative, as well as practical. Some part of your life will experience a major shift this year. (It might be as significant as something that happened around 1998.)
Birthdate of: Chow Yun-Fat, actor; Oleg Tverdovsky, hockey player; Diane Duane, author.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a good time to focus on your finances. Take a hard look at your assets and liabilities. Information is power.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Because the Sun is in your sign, this is one of the most powerful times of the year for you. Go after what you want. Opportunities and people easily come to you!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): It's time to lie in the weeds and ponder your future. Work behind the scenes or work alone if you can. Grab every little bit of solitude you can find

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Friends and group activities are increasingly important now. Talk to others about your long-term goals. Their feedback could be helpful.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): With the Sun at high noon in your chart, people, especially VIPs and bosses, notice you now. You might as well milk this for all it's worth. Flash your dazzle!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): What can you do to travel or educate yourself further or expand your experience of the world in some way? This is what the stars want you to do right now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Definitely focus on insurance matters, inheritances, shared property, debt, taxes and red-tape details. You don't like talking about money, as a rule. But these things need to be done.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a good time to smoothe out misunderstandings with partners. However, to do so you will have to go more than halfway. Be willing to compromise!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): What can you do to improve your health right now? The planets now highlight health and employment for your sign. These are the areas where you should focus your attention.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Sports, the arts, playful activities with children, vacations and romance are just some of the areas that are very promising for you at this time. Leave work early, and go out and have some fun!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Conversations with parents might be significant now. Home, family and real estate issues are where you need to give more energy.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): It's important to stay in touch with siblings. Family is forever. This is a good time to call up relatives and trade lies about the bad old days.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

4	3		9					2
				3	2	7		8
	7							
	8							9
	6						1	
7							3	
							6	
5		8	4	1				
1					9		8	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★

5/18

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	6	3	1	2	4	8	5	9
8	2	1	5	6	9	4	7	3
9	4	5	3	7	8	6	1	2
1	3	8	7	9	6	5	2	4
2	7	4	8	5	1	3	9	6
6	5	9	4	3	2	7	8	1
4	1	6	2	8	5	9	3	7
3	8	2	9	4	7	1	6	5
5	9	7	6	1	3	2	4	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

TWILIGHT ZONE. On Bruno: distressed canvas head cap; leatherette necklace with glass disc; fatigue lace-up sneakers with rivets, all from Wade. On Pamela: patent red bag; patent red cork wedges; white wrist watch, all from Wade; clothes by Pia Gladys Perey

Summer simmer

WADE'S AD CAMPAIGN for 2007 takes inspiration from the desert.

Fashion designers Jeff Rogador (Graxie) and Pia Gladys Perey (Whitekitten) provide hot pieces for the collection.

Wade's version of the man of summer is strong, rugged, versatile, sexy and savage. Hip shoes or sneakers rule. Made of rubber, washed synthetic leather or animal hide, these hip shoes roam high with Velcro straps, nylon appliqués, spiked soles, silver rivets or lace cords. The silver washed sneakers, on the other hand, give a little metallic shine.

Classic semi-pointed leather shoes (in black, camel or burnt brown) still dominate Wade's collection. Faux croc and snakeskin shoes, in contrast, are for those who want to stand out, while casual and comfy flat driving shoes (in white, black or chocolate brown) are perennial favorites.

Head caps, belts and bags come in leather or canvas material in white, charcoal, black, bullet gray and fatigue.

Wade is at 3/L, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center; G/L, Padre Faura Wing, Robinsons Place Manila; 3/L, East Wing, Robinsons Galleria; 2/F, Bldg. A, SM Megamall; 4/L, The Block, SM City North Edsa; G/L, Main Mall, SM Mall of Asia; G/F, SM City Clark, Pampanga; The Shops, Unimart, Greenhills; G/F, Alimall, Araneta Center; G/F, Gaisano Mall of Davao. Soon to open at Trinoma and SM City Manila.

OFF-WHITE head cap and cream lace-up hip shoes, all from Wade; pants by Jeff Rogador

Travel and sizzle in style

SHOP AND EARN GO! MASTERCARD points at any establishment and double your points by purchasing through participating Robinsons retail establishments. Use your rewards to purchase your ideal summer ensemble or delight in worry-free traveling via Cebu Pacific with your Go! MasterCard.

Looking for that perfect summer getup? Topshop is definitely the fashion destination for the summer season. Jazz up your summer wardrobe with cutting-edge styles such as animal-print dresses, cute baby tees and, of course, brightly colored bikinis for that hot, sizzling day at the beach.

Find that cool, simple outfit that can take you from an afternoon beach stroll to a dinner on a warm summer's night with Dorothy Perkins' summer dresses. Ethnic prints and sundresses are a must for that trendy summer look.

Opt for leather belts and animal-print shift and sheer dresses from Warehouse. Enjoy only the best in men's fashion with Topman for that hard-to-find comfy pair of jeans, board shorts, and flip-flops for a day at the beach or for just cruising around the metro.

With your new summer outfits, what better way to flaunt them than visiting the numerous vacation hotspots this season? Travel via Cebu Pacific and enjoy scenic Bohol or marvel at the Philippines' exotic spots in Davao. You can choose to bask in the sun and enjoy the beautiful beaches of Cebu and Boracay or explore the nature and scenery of Puerto Princesa and historic Laoag.

Use your Go! MasterCard for the ultimate summer excursion with Cebu Pacific Go Fares. Also, get a chance to win a trip to any one of these exciting destinations through the Going Places with Go! MasterCard promotion.

Every P1,000 single-receipt purchase using Go! MasterCard or Metrobank credit cards from participating Robinsons stores and Cebu Pacific ticket offices entitles the cardholder to one computer-generated raffle entry.

Each winner will receive a Travel Voucher inclusive of round-trip airfare for two via Cebu Pacific; three-day, two-night hotel accommodation for two and P10,000 spending money. Call 8-700-700 to apply. Promo is ongoing until May 31.

ON JON: gray cargos and white cotton polo from Topman. On Sarita: plaid dress, red baby tee and denim hobo bag, all from Topshop

OLIVE extended-sleeve dress, yellow sheer vest, green sling bag, all from Warehouse

IN GOOD SHAPE. White baby-doll dress with black satin strips and lace appliqué

Ethereally romantic

SOFT, LIGHT AND ULTRA-feminine silhouettes highlight the latest look of Shapes.

Partly inspired by retro baby-doll dresses, the collection of Shapes comes in fine and lightweight fabrics like chiffon, satin, tulle, silk chiffon and georgette.

A jaunty appliqué of bow or ribbon is enough to send some girly flashes along with sash and lace accents. Moreover, empire-cut and shift dresses cover most sartorial grounds—in floral or retro graphic prints. Pair them with a metallic wide belt.

Colors like earthy white, pale gray, coffee brown or old rose add drama to a laid-back outfit. Finish off with piled-up wooden or metallic bangles and flower pins.

Toni Gonzaga, Shapes' image model and muse, gets dolled up for this brand's interpretation of what's modern, sweet and ethereally romantic.

Getting more controversial these days, she has been in the news lately—being linked to some show-biz hotties. Nevertheless, Toni's current affair with Shapes is just enough to be as lovely as the look of love.

Shapes is located at SM City North Edsa, SM Mall of Asia, SM City Fairview, SM Pampanga, SM City Clark, SM Manila, SM City Sta. Mesa, SM City San Lazaro, SM Valenzuela, SM Sucat, SM Bicutan, SM Dasmariñas, SM Batangas, SM Molino Cavite, SM Marilao, SM Sta. Rosa, SM Lipa, SM Southmall, Pavillion Mall Biñan, and Eastwood Cybermall. Also available in leading SM Department Stores nationwide. Soon to open at SM Megamall.

WALLFLOWER. Printed black empire-cut dress with pleats

Now, if only. . .

From page G1

they are stalking.

There are Ilocanos like interior designer/jeweler and collector **Mel Andino** who haven't tired of trying to promote the Ilocano *abel* to the outside world.

Actually the *abel* Iloko should be easier to market as a home accent rather than a fashion item, fashion being more vulnerable to trends. In the current construction and property development frenzy, interior designers can explore a vast range of uses for these weaves.

Nonproductive

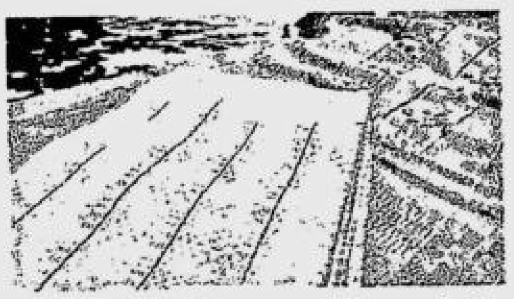
Now, if only politicians would spend all that cash and loot not on ugly and nonproductive edifices, but on Filipino talent and craftsmanship—like the pre-Hispanic technology of *abel*—not only would people have something to eat, but present and future generations would also learn that hard, honest work pays and can be fulfilling.

It's about empowering the people to feel the dignity of labor and talent. It's about Filipino values.

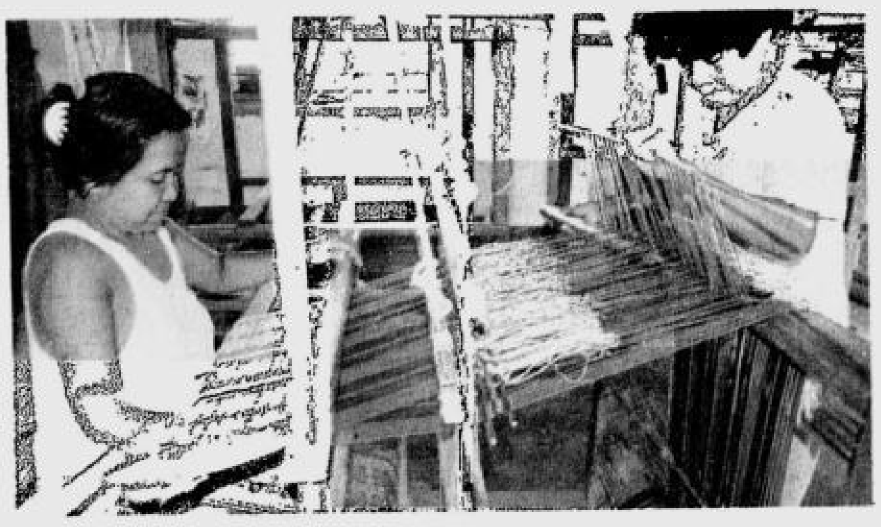
Our craftsmanship is marketable. **Bongbong** and **Lisa Marcos** are doing it for Ilocos Norte. I was impressed that in the Ilocos markets, there are also many beautiful Marikina mules and slippers being sold. That's what makes Marikina Mayor **Marides Fernando** different from the lot. Instead of giving up in the face of the onslaught of luxury brands and cheap China goods, she's still at it, improving Marikina footwear and finding market niches (no matter how small) for the embellished shoes.

Politicians can fund the improvement of crafts to meet market standards, underwrite market research to determine demand, set up marketing and business infrastructures for these craftsmen, and identify markets here and abroad. There is a lifestyle market for these crafts.

And while they're at it, politicians can tap artists, craftsmen, designers and architects as consultants on culture, lifestyle—and taste. They badly need a BIR ("*bading* in residence," pardon the political incorrectness.)



THIS optical-illusion pattern helps ward off evil spirits.



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25 OIL PASTELS
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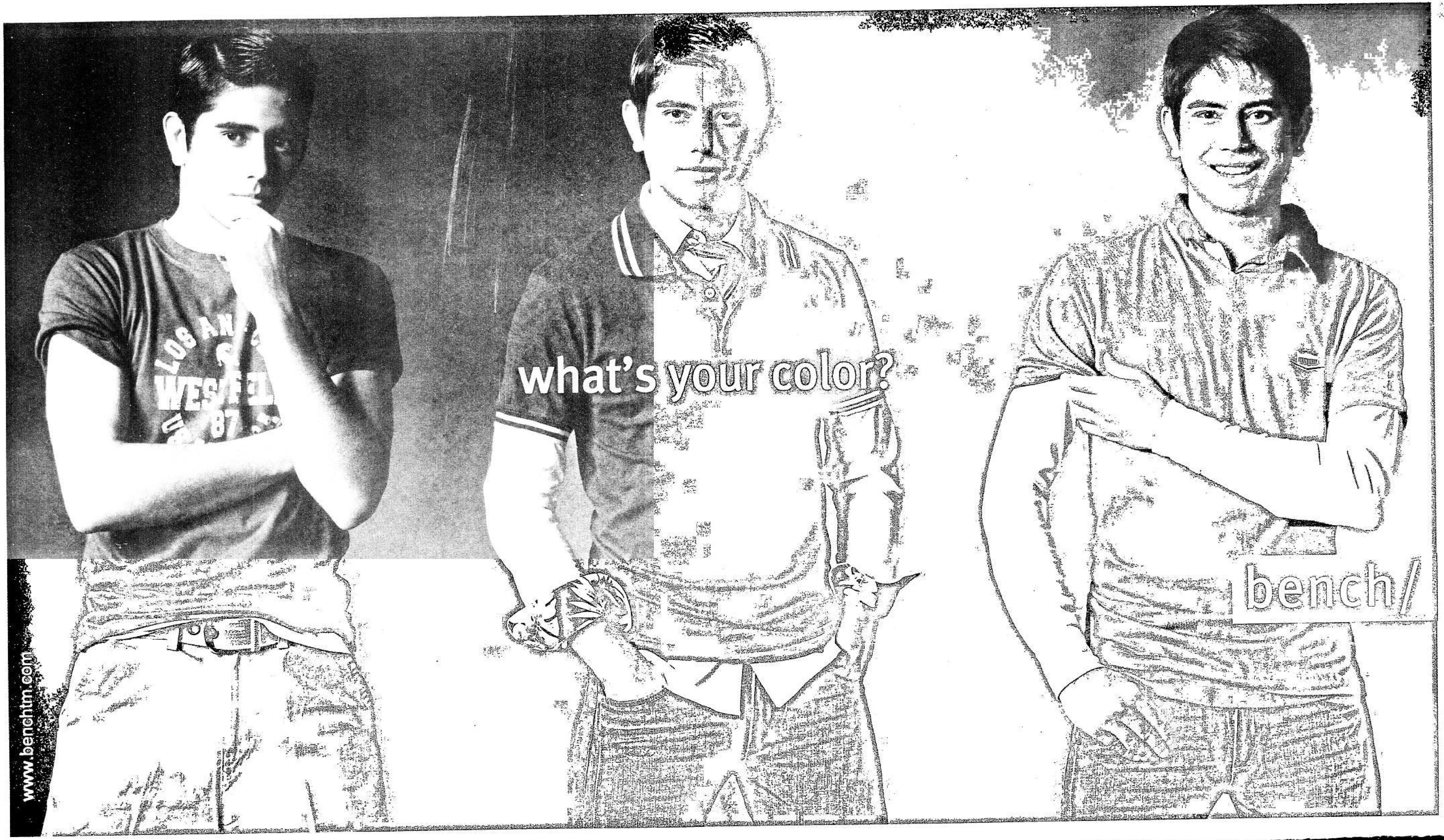
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Reporting live —from Cannes

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

CANNES, FRANCE—WE HAVE TO ADMIT that, even as a *promdi* covering Hollywood, we have become blasé.

But to be here on the French Riviera, covering the world's most prestigious film festival that championed the late great **Lino Brocka**? We have not been this excited in a long while.

Which Pinoy cineaste didn't get a thrill seeing those photos of Lino here, in *barong*, walking on the red carpet before the official screenings of his films? To this day, the image of a *terno*-clad **Hilda Koronel**, star of Lino's first Cannes ticket, "Insiang," on the front page of Le Monde, is etched in our mind.

So now, to be walking on the grounds that Lino trod on as he made waves for Philippine cinema sends a chill up a spine. And to have a Filipino film, **Brillante "Dante" Mendoza**'s "Foster Child," featured in the Directors' Fortnight again—we are truly elated. Especially since we know the producer, **Robbie Tan**, from his days when he cranked out those sexually titillating movies in the early 1980s.

Imagine the man who produced movies with titles like "Kirot" behind a Pinoy film included in the Directors' Fortnight. This is a program that held the first French screenings of the debut works of such filmmakers as **Martin Scorsese, Nagisha Oshima, George Lucas, Werner Herzog, Spike Lee** and **Rainer Werner Fassbinder**.

'Foster' journey

Via e-mail, we reconnected with Robbie after two decades. "It's really a dream come true to be in the number one film festival in the whole world," he wrote. "I was immensely excited to learn of the acceptance of 'Foster Child' in the Directors' Fortnight. Two years ago, when the market of local films was shrinking, I told myself that I wanted to go global. I thought, if other Asian countries can successfully penetrate outside territories, why can't Filipino films do that, too?"

CFF's master of ceremonies, German actress Diane Kruger at a photocall on Tuesday. AFP

The Seiko Films exec narrated his journey that led to the making of "Foster Child," starring **Cherry Pie Picache** (who is always good in the Pinoy films that we've watched back in LA), **Eugene Domingo, Dan Alvaro, Alwyn Uytingco, Jiro Manio** and **Kier Segundo**. "I have been to several international film festivals abroad before, like Toronto, Berlin, Chicago and Udine (Italy). I observed that foreigners do not like 'derivative' local films. They want films that reveal the Filipino soul. They want a film that would tell them about the Filipino sub-culture."

He continued: "That's why when scriptwriters **Ralston Jover** and **Armando 'Bing' Lao** introduced me to the story about fostering kids in poor urban communities, I was immediately attracted to the idea. It took Ralston almost a year to finish the script because we wanted to first get all the details about fostering. Bing, who supervised the script, required a high level of authenticity so the whole project would work. Ralston interviewed people behind the foundation in charge of fostering, as well as all the facilities involved."

Why them?

Robbie was struck by one particular aspect: "Why are poor families the ones fostering abandoned babies? It was explained to me that the foundation pays each family P1,500 a month as caregiver, on top of providing the baby milk, diapers, vitamins, etc."

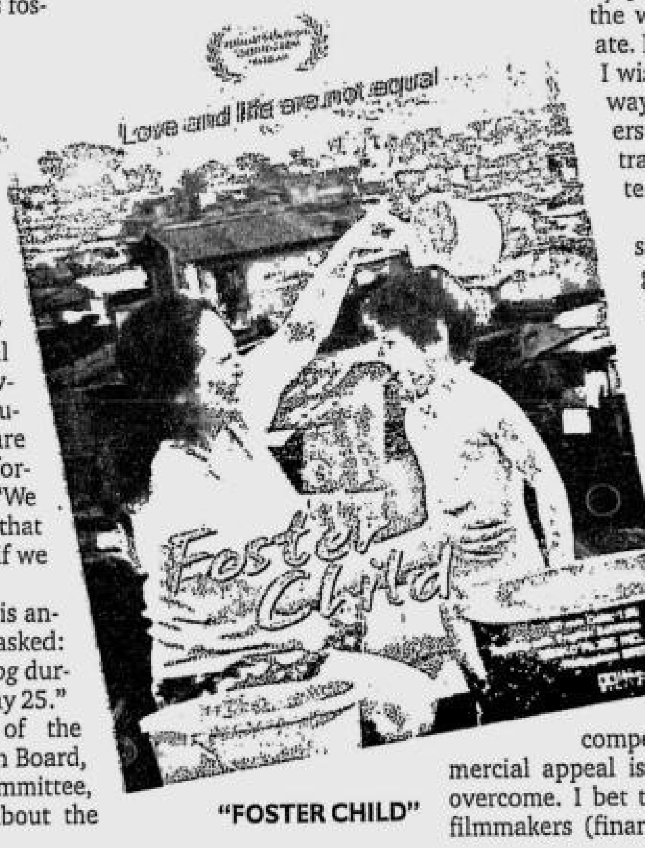
He was "absolutely excited," Robbie said, to see the international audience's reaction to the movie. "We deliberately veered away from the usual mold of Third World films showing poverty. We showed the human side of Filipinos who are very caring in spite of their unfortunate situation," he said. "We want the whole world to know that Filipinos are big in heart even if we are poor."

On a lighter note, we got this answer from Robbie when we asked: "We plan to wear *barong Tagalog* during the official screening on May 25."

Christine Dayrit, Chair of the Philippines' Cinema Evaluation Board, International Film Festival Committee, responded to our question about the trail that Lino blazed: "I wish I were not so 'young' because I missed the Lino Brocka era, when his presence at Cannes seemed inevitable with each film. Each country certainly has its pioneering film directors, who put their country's unique stories and culture for the world to see and appreciate. For us, it was Lino Brocka. I wish that since he paved the way, more Filipino filmmakers would take that road less traveled to Cannes more often."

NORAH Jones opens this year's Cannes Film Festival with "My Blueberry Nights," where she debuts as an actress. She co-stars with Jude Law in this movie, Wong Kar Wai's first English film feature. It is the first time that a movie by a Chinese director is launching the festival.

DANTE Mendoza, L, and Robbie Tan are Cannes-bound.



Love and life are not equal
Foster Child

"FOSTER CHILD"

Of "Foster Child's" inclusion in the prestigious program started by the French Directors Society in 1969, Christine remarked, "As an official whose role is to promote Filipino talent, help improve the quality of Filipino filmmaking and revive the industry, I am so proud and happy. It really means a lot to me that Philippine colors can fly high again."

She added, "It's not easy to produce a movie. The global competition is tough, and commercial appeal is too powerful a factor to overcome. I bet there are so many Filipino filmmakers (financiers and producers) who are inspired by Brocka up to now. Once they truly follow Brocka's lead, Philippine movies in Cannes might be inevitable each year. I really wish we had a presence in Cannes each year, and the Raymond Reds and Brilliante Mendozas don't come once every blue moon." (Raymond won the 2000 Palme D'Or for best short film with his "Anino"; aside from Lino, Mike de Leon also got spotlighted in the Fortnight with his "Kisapmata" and "Batch 81.")

Christine, who is excited like us to be in Cannes, brought up a Brocka connection. "Our chairman of the Film Development Council, **Jackie Atienza**, produced for Bancom Audiovision the first Pinoy film ever in the main competition in Cannes [Lino's 'Jaguar']. It was a great moment for Philippine cinema. Our FDCP chairman enthused that it was a magical moment for him being in Cannes to represent the Philippines in the main competition."

Must-bring list

On top of Christine's must-bring list to the hottest place on the French Riviera at this time of the year: "My camera, my back-up camera, and my cell phone with camera." At the time we were corresponding to each other, she was undecided about which one to wear to "Foster Child's" big night on May 25: "A modern Filipiniana terno made by my mom's sister, **Tilde Belo**, or a black Muslim-inspired gown made by my dear friend in Brunei, Anyati Orcullo."

Robbie and Christine will be joined by Dante, Cherry Pie Picache and screenplay writer **Ralston Jover**.

Last Wednesday, we were scheduled to attend the opening night gala of **Wong Kar Wai**'s "My Blueberry Nights," which celebrates several "firsts." The romantic drama is the first English language film of the acclaimed director; it's his first English language feature; it's the first time in Cannes' fabled history that a movie by a Chinese director opened the festival; and singer **Norah Jones** makes her acting debut opposite **Jude Law, Rachel Weisz** and **Natalie Portman**.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

Big Brother has a lot of explaining to do

By Jose Javier Reyes
Contributor

OKAY, THAT'S IT.

Somebody really ought to tell off Kuya now. In behalf of those who still believe that *ang telenobela ng tunay na buhay* is more interesting than any of the prime time series that morph into an assortment of sub-genres—*sinenobela, fantaserye, teleiyakan, tele-whatever* (which actually offer more of the same)—I hereby express my indignation.

Fascination

Ano ba naman 'yan, Kuya?

When the local franchise of "Big Brother" was launched last year, the fascination for peering into the most private moments of everyday people forced to live with each other became an interesting subject for social studies. We Pinoys make a big deal out of the stuff we are made of. Ours is a unique race with a tireless capacity to smile and make merry even on the eve of the apocalypse.

We also have an appetite as much for overwrought and convoluted real-life drama as for entertainment. We are basically a non-confrontational people but, boy, do we love to watch highly emotional *eksenas* bordering on the hysterical.

The "PBB Celebrity Edition"" was a big coming-out party for Rustom Padilla. He was perceived as showing his strength by unfurling his vulnerability (*"Kapatid ... ang tapang niya!"*).

At the same time, it presented a side of Keanna Reeves that made hypocrites realize that a woman should not be judged by her plunging neckline.

Objects of media curiosity and ridicule were suddenly ... endearing.

Generally, we are in awe of individuals who exhibit unbridled courage because most of us don't have the guts to do so even with our personal territories.

Then, there was the "Teen Edition" that uh, produced Kim Chiu and Gerald Anderson. That, more or less, said everything.

And then last weekend it happened.

Big challenge

Admittedly the big challenge was to make the Second Edition sound and look as interesting as the first. The element of surprise was gone, and the thousands who queued up for a chance to squeeze into Kuya's house already knew what it was about.

Showing the world what the Pinoy was all about was *not* the principal motivation for the greater number of participants. Being a "housemate" simply meant media exposure.

Let that be so. After all, Sam and Gerald and Kim and Franzen and Jayson made careers in a few months, where it would normally take forever and a day for a truly talented Johnny Nobody. And let's admit it: Rustom got a new lease on his show biz life with that coming out, and has now become the heir apparent to Manny Castañeda.

Is that wrong

So what's wrong with wanting a shot at a show biz career by dressing in silly costumes or playing parlor games and showing the world what you look like first thing in the morning? Is the prospect of media infamy and fortune not worth indulging in no-holds-barred confessions of your innermost secrets—those you never dared tell even your family and friends? So you willingly divulge yours to the world, complete with tears and sappy musical scoring ... so what?

Pagkakataon mo na ito, your one chance for the public to know the real you, the media you. What better way is there to be discovered by others while you are discovering yourself?

But the problem with the Second Edition was evident right from the start. Kuya wanted to bring in *everybody*. Not just anybody or any body but everyone who had a face and a body.

Whereas the premiere season had distinct and truly interesting characters like Uma, Say, Cass, Nene, Franzen, Jayson, Teacher Raquel and, of course, the biggest winner, Sam Milby ... this current generation was plucked from a single phylum: dudes and dudettes.

The boys and girls are all young, healthy and gorgeous and would look good as co-hosts and/or guests on "Wowowee." Oh, throw in a natural clown with a predilection for shedding gallons of tears with the least provocation, for variety and local color.

Boot camp

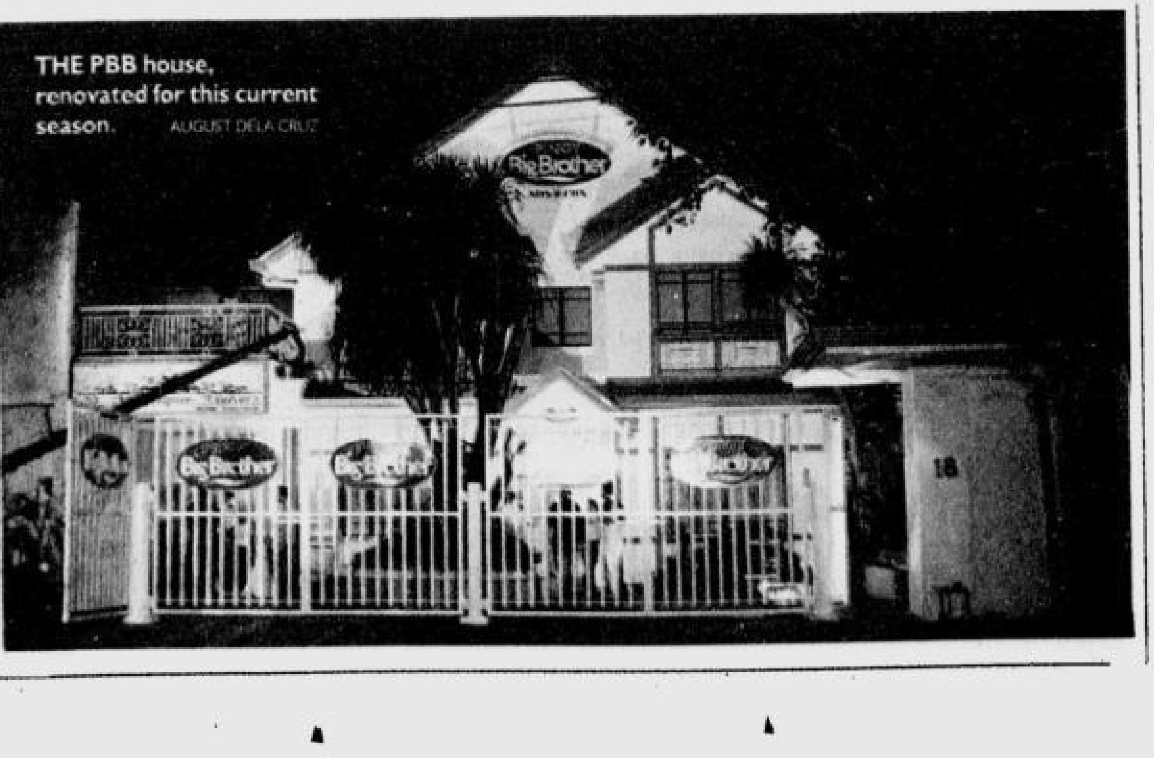
Otherwise, the show would seem like a boot camp for the "Philippines' Next Top Model."

But what was designed to be the selling point of the show turned out to be a glaring liability: They all look alike.

They can be distinguished only through their accents, for they speak several variations of spoken English.

Kuya must have realized this. That was probably why he brought in the housemates on installment basis. The first batch came clad in pajamas and handcuffs (that implied something kinky but turned out to be silly). The rest were ushered in wearing costumes. Others were hidden in secret nooks and crannies of the house ... making some

BIG BROTHER/ H2



THE PBB house, renovated for this current season. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

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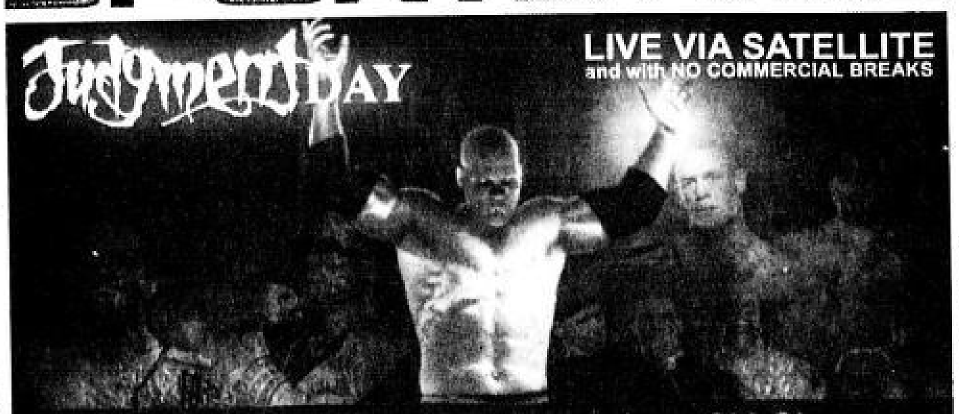

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8 SPIDER-MAN 3
9 28 WEEKS LATER
10 CONDEMNED
11 SPIDER-MAN 3
12 SPIDER-MAN 3

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8 WHISPER
9 SPIDER-MAN 3
10 SPIDER-MAN 3
11 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
12 LUCKY YOU

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 FRACTURE
3 SHREK 3
4 SHREK 3
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
7 28 WEEKS LATER
8 LUCKY YOU
9 WHISPER
10 CONDEMNED

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 SPIDER-MAN 3/ SHREK 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 CONDEMNED
5 WHISPER
6 FRACTURE

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 SHREK 3
2 FRACTURE
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SHREK 3
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 28 WEEKS LATER
7 CONDEMNED
8 WHISPER
9 ANG CUTE NG INA MO

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SHREK 3
3 WHISPER
4 SPIDER-MAN 3

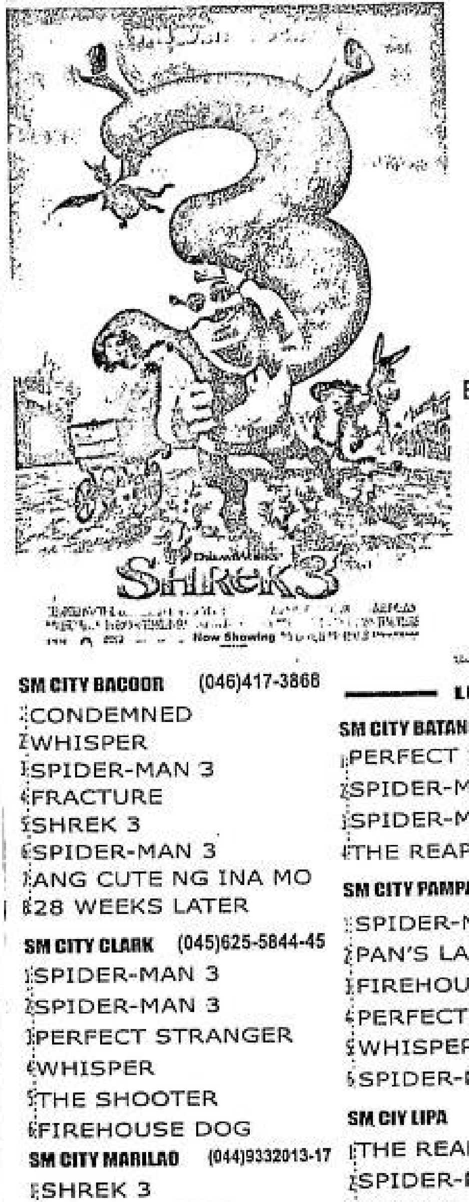
SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 SHREK 3
2 WHISPER
3 FRACTURE
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 SHREK 3
6 SPIDER-MAN 3
7 SPIDER-MAN 3
8 SPIDER-MAN 3
9 SPIDER-MAN 3
10 CONDEMNED
11 28 WEEKS LATER
12 LUCKY YOU

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 WHISPER
3 PERFECT STRANGER
4 SHREK 3

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 SHREK 3
2 WHISPER
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 28 WEEKS LATER

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 SPIDER-MAN 3/ SHREK 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 WHISPER

SHOWTIME



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6 SPIDER-MAN 3
7 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
8 28 WEEKS LATER

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
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2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 PERFECT STRANGER
4 WHISPER
5 THE SHOOTER
6 FIREHOUSE DOG

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 SHREK 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 WHISPER

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 PERFECT STRANGER
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 THE REAPING

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 PAN'S LABYRINTH
3 FIREHOUSE DOG
4 PERFECT STRANGER
5 WHISPER
6 SPIDER-MAN 3

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2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SUNSHINE
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1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 WHISPER
3 SUNSHINE
4 SPIDER-MAN 3

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2 WHISPER
3 SHREK 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3

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2 PERFECT STRANGER
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 WHISPER
6 ROCKY BALBOA

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2 THE SHOOTER
3 SUNSHINE
4 SPIDER-MAN 3

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MINDANAO

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2 RESERVED
3 PAN'S LABYRINTH
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 THE REAPING
7 RESERVED
8 PERFECT STRANGER

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
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2 PERFECT STRANGER
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 WHISPER
5 TURISTAS
6 PREMONITION
7 SPIDER-MAN 3
8 SPIDER-MAN 3

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Big Brother has a lot of explaining

viewers wonder if this was the same set used in "Pan's Labyrinth."

For the sake of novelty, the housemates were endlessly being voted in or out of the premises. Just when you thought you have seen everyone, another boarder is brought in until the audience became as confused as the housemates themselves. Kuya, will you make up your mind? *Ilan ba talaga ang titira diyan, ha?*

Has that cute yellow house turned into Ang Hostel ni Kuya?

Kidnapped

One fine day, the dudes woke up to find one of them had been kidnapped. A few days later, they found a Slovenian in their midst. Now, that must have been very, very confusing for the residents. Why? Because the audience was very, very confused, too, figuring out what was happening.

Then of course there are the usual, yet highly necessary it seems, dramatic moments. But ... uh ...watching two women scream, whimper and bitch about a personal crisis founded on something so trivial and then conclude the argument with a threat involving a knife was far from entertaining. It was disturbing. *Ano ba talaga ang pinag-aawayan ng dalawang 'yan, ha?*

It was bad enough that one thoroughly spooking the audi on talking to a doll. Now there serial killer in there? *Teka, bago*

One jaded viewer comment well that ends well *rin 'yan. M 'yan ... mag-iiyakan ...* and all with a group hug." Another w *"Ay, walang saksakan?"*

Then there was the whole iss mates *na nagka-developan;* t hunk to literally bray like an i his babe was voted out one night. Some suspected that abandonment had been brou lag from a trip to Slovenia. .

And just when everybody t would soon be over the pa (while the babe was busy wavi waiting outside the Bahay), a n troduced. Now there is a possib could walk back into the house by the audience.

"Hu-waaaaaaaat?" screamed a certified PBB Addict. *"Akala ko ba napalayas na 'yan? Bakit babalik pa?!"*

Subplot

E, kasi naman, ano? Think of the possibilities. Could this subplot of the separated lovers be developed further? Could this launch the Next Big Love Team? Would they end up in an episode of "Your Song"?

Seen that, overdone that. A better question is, what will the housemates think with this new rule that might

POWER PLANT
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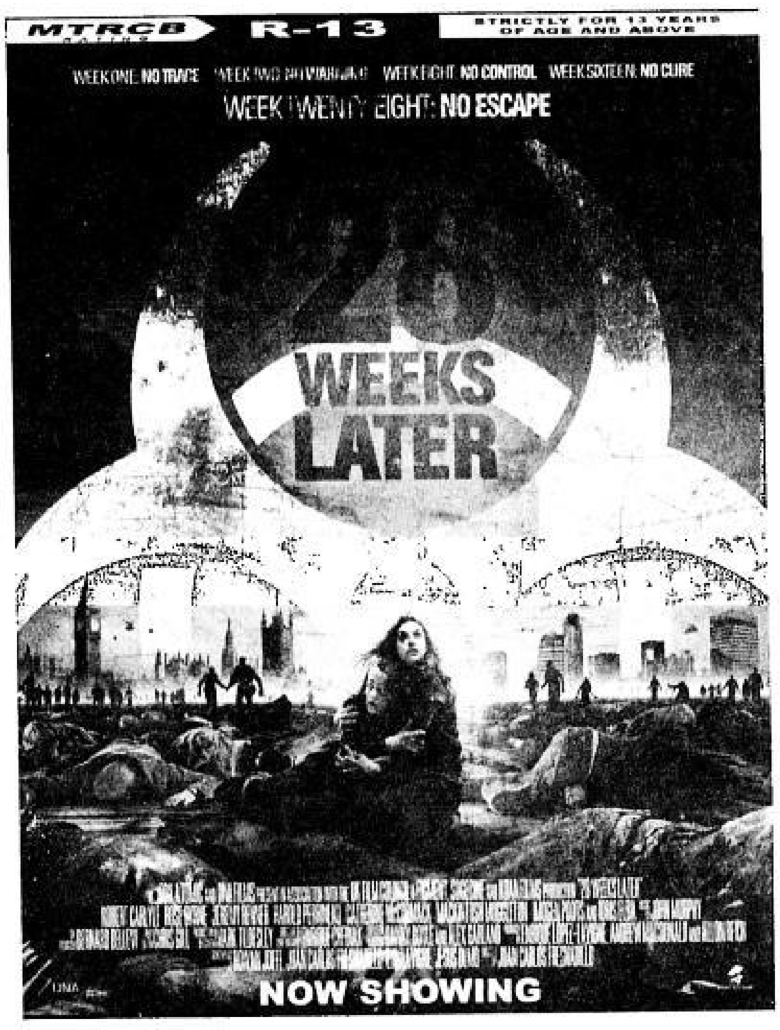
DOLBY DIGITAL

FRACTURE 12:50,3:15,5:40, 8:05,10:30	SHREK 3 G 11:55,2:00,4:05, 6:10,8:05,10:20	SHREK 3 G 1:20,3:25,5:30, 7:35,9:40
SHREK 3 G 12:40,2:45,4:50, 6:55,9:00	WHISPER R13 1:40,3:50,6:00, 8:10,10:20	SPIDER-MAN 3 G 1:20,4:20,7:20,10:20

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

MTRCB R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE



Irked viewers chide 'PBB,' 'Wowowee'

FEEDBACK

From: "Nayeli" (via email), sent May 15, 2007:

I hope this message reaches the ABS-CBN management and "Pinoy Big Brother" staff:

We spent precious money *para ma-evict ang housemate na ayaw na namin makita sa loob ng bahay ni kuys.* Yes, even Dionne "haters" voted for her to ensure Wendy's eviction. *Tapos ngayon pababalikin niyo lang?*

To add insult to injury, *gagasta na naman kami* to vote for Kian, Jasmin, and Zeke, just to make sure Wendy stays out?

This is another clear proof that Wendy is favored by management. *Ginamit niyo pa ang tatlo para hindi obvious na gusto niyo pabalikin si* Wendy. Sad to say, obvious *pa rin!*

Ganyan ba kalakas ang kapit ni Wendy? *O talagang swapang lang kayo sa pera para gatasan na naman ang* viewers?

Paging Ms Laguardia

From William See (see_william_40@yahoo.com), Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates:

I wish to comment on yesterday's episode of "Wowowee," specifically the Willie of Fortune segment, where six young kids participated.

Let me not mince words—I cannot hide my disgust, irritation and disappointment over the way Willie and his soundmen/audiomen/spinners,—especially that inept DJ of theirs, treated one of the contestants, whose name is Mae-mae (or something like that) just because the little girl's voice was high-pitched and she spoke in a "somewhat funny and odd way."

It is never right to poke fun at anyone's "shortcomings" and/or "inadequacies," especially someone as young as that girl, who I'm afraid, will now be teased and jeered no end by her playmates, classmates, neighbors, relatives and friends because of what happened on "Wowowee." She cried practically the whole time.

Willie Revillame, to my chagrin, was even the one instigating/egging on his minions to keep playing that sound effect—so many times, I lost count. Each time they did, the poor girl cried her eyes out. Isn't that plain and simple cruelty? And on worldwide TV, too!

And what about the other kids who watched that show—what were they supposed to learn from that? That it's OK to tease and make fun of people with "oddities"?

How insensitive can you people get, behaving so irresponsibly? Have you seen yourselves acting and dancing and prancing like mad cows on the loose?

If this is the kind of shows that ABS CBN intends to lay on us every night, I might as well cancel my TFC subscription and look for another network who can assure better viewing. Paging the MTRCB! Madame Laguardia, please look into this matter. Please!

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PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN
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MAY 2007

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11:40 / 12:55 / 1:50 / 3:05
4:00 / 5:15 / 6:10
7:25 / 8:20 / 9:35

WHISPER
12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50

LUCKY YOU
12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20

Globe PLATINUM CINEMA

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1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30

FRACTURE
1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30

SHREK 3
12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00

ALIMALL 5

1 SHREK 3
12:20 / 2:30 / 4:20 / 6:10 / 8:00
2 FRACTURE
12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10
3 SPIDERMAN 3
12:30 / 3:10 / 5:50 / 8:30
4 CONDEMNED
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to do

From page H1

of the girls was
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ought the hunk
nful separation
g to the crowds
w twist was in-
lity that the girl
if she is voted in

be labeled *Labas-Masok sa Bahay ni Kuya?* Now they must be really, really confused. Well, we are ... again.

Whereas "Big Brother" shows in other countries seem to pander to the audiences' curiosity to catch a glimpse of, uh, inevitable earthiness, trust the Filipinos to concoct their own unique version.

No naughtiness

There is not an iota of naughtiness in the local version, thanks to the La Liga de Laguardia. The slightest suggestion of hanky-panky among the boys and girls and *Kuya* merits a memo from the MTRCB. *Sige nga*, Kuya! Dare!

PBB had taken the safest route so as not to give the impression that this is Prime Time *Bosohan*. In between dancing, performing challenges and making endless *kuwentos* and confessions, the housemates cook *bananacue*, prepare *halo-halo at pampalamigs* to raise P300,000 to rehabilitate an elementary school in the Visayas. *Diyos ko naman*, Kuya! That, I tell you, will entail a helluva lot of bananas and shaved ice.

So amid all this, why am I particularly bored with the second edition? Why do I feel that the challenges the housemates are made to perform may be as visually entertaining as a game of Tetris but somewhat juvenile and downright meaningless? Why am I simply not interested in the characters of this batch despite all their attempts, conscious or unconscious, to have effective camera presence?

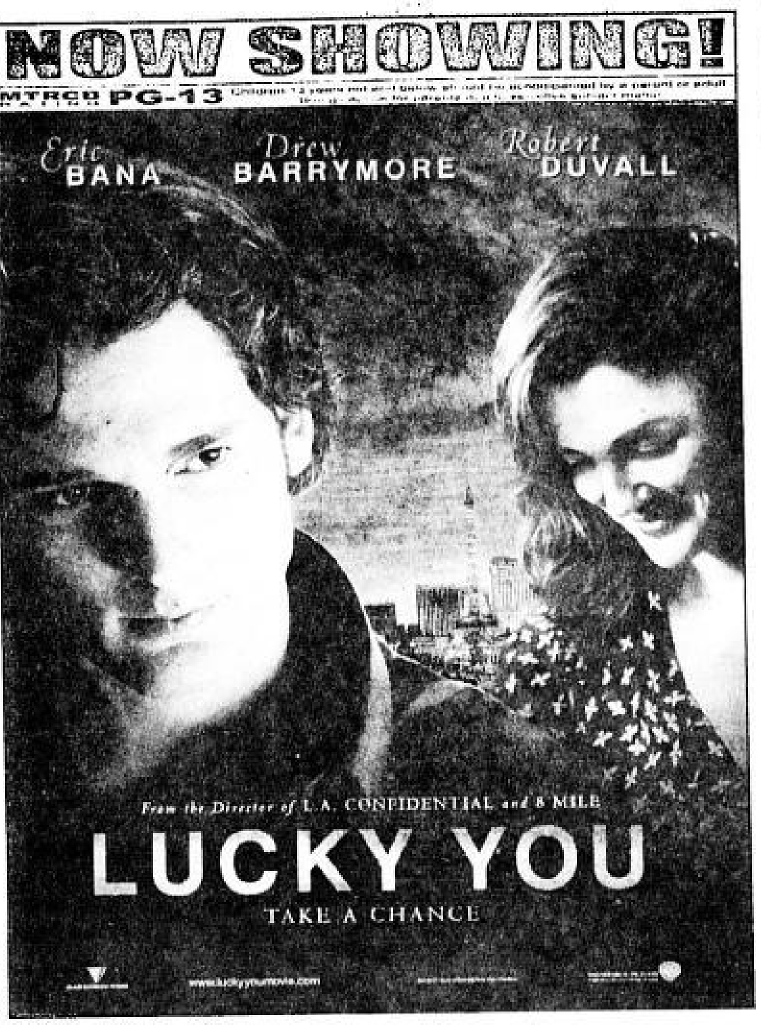
Is it because I feel that *Kuya* no longer knows what to do with the dudes and dudettes that he has gathered? Is this why he is feeding the audience with episodes that are not only irritatingly repetitive but on the verge of being ridiculous? Is *Kuya* equally unexcited about this present lot of housemates that he cannot squeeze blood out of them to make them relate to the audience, except for that same-old-same-old *hagulgulan* in the confession room? Does *Kuya* also feel, like some of us, that some of the housemates are endlessly performing for the cameras, as if they were auditioning for the next big production of Star Cinema or for an episode of "Maalaala Mo Kaya"?

Who cares?

Why is it that, after more than 80 days inside the house, most of us still do not know these people, much less care about them, talk about them or even empathize with them despite their sad stories and endless bickering? Why isn't there a single one of the housemates interesting enough to win our admiration for grace under pressure or even sanity despite cabin fever?

The answer is simple: We are not made to know them. We see them but we do not know them. This makes it so much harder for us to send text votes for them. Now we really miss the Umas, Jaysons, Keannas and Rustoms of the past editions.

Paki- explain *nga*, Kuya?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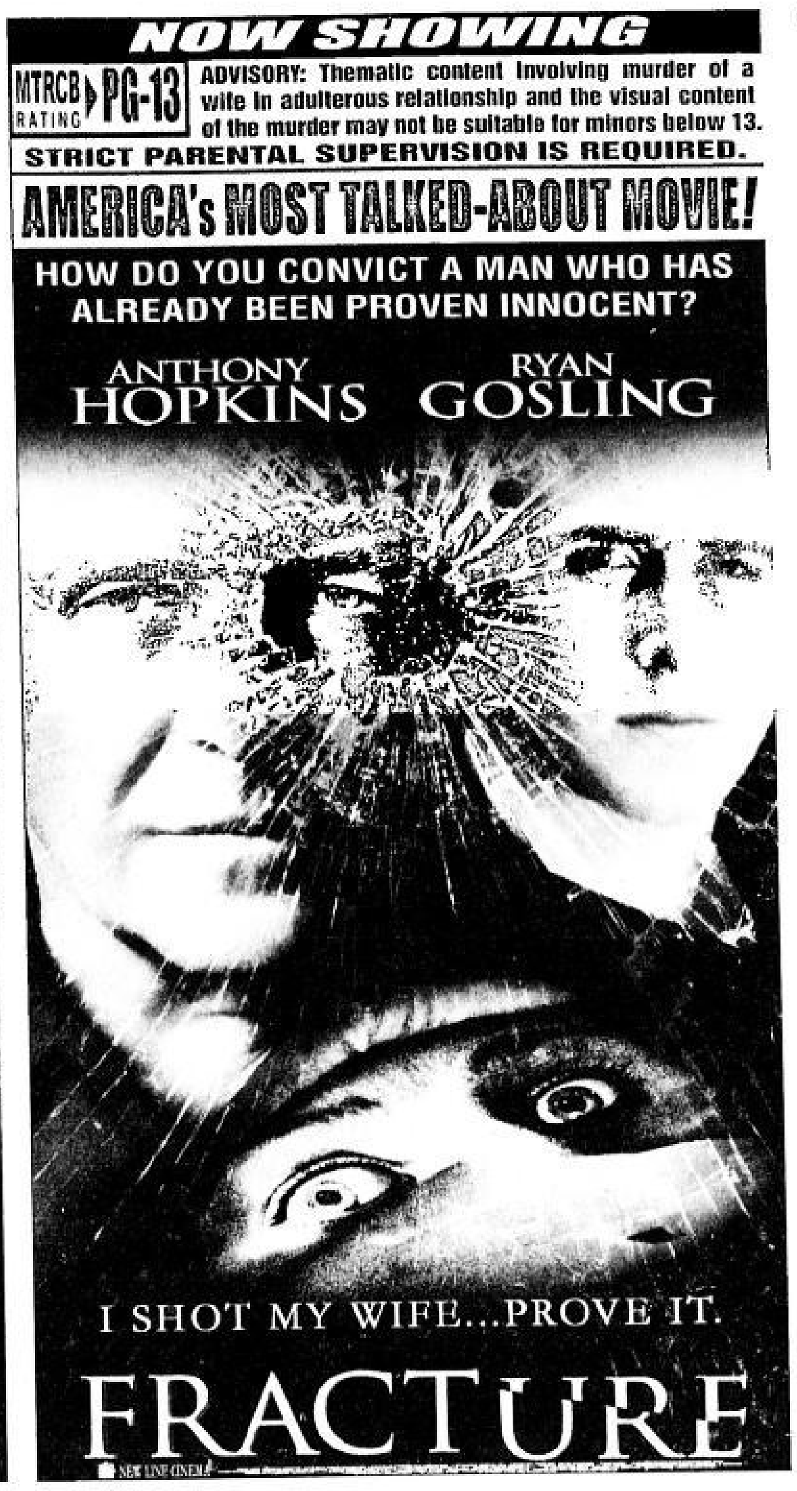
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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 SPIDER-MAN 3	2 FRACTURE	3 THX SHREK 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 LUCKY YOU	5 SHREK 3	6 SHREK 3	7 WHISPER
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 SPIDER-MAN 3	2 SHREK 3		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX SHREK 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 FRACTURE GUARANTEED SEATS	4 SHREK 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 SHREK 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX SHREK 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 SPIDER-MAN 3		
	3 FRACTURE	4 WHISPER	5 SHREK 3	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 SPIDER-MAN 3	2 WHISPER	3 TURISTAS	4 GRAY MATTERS
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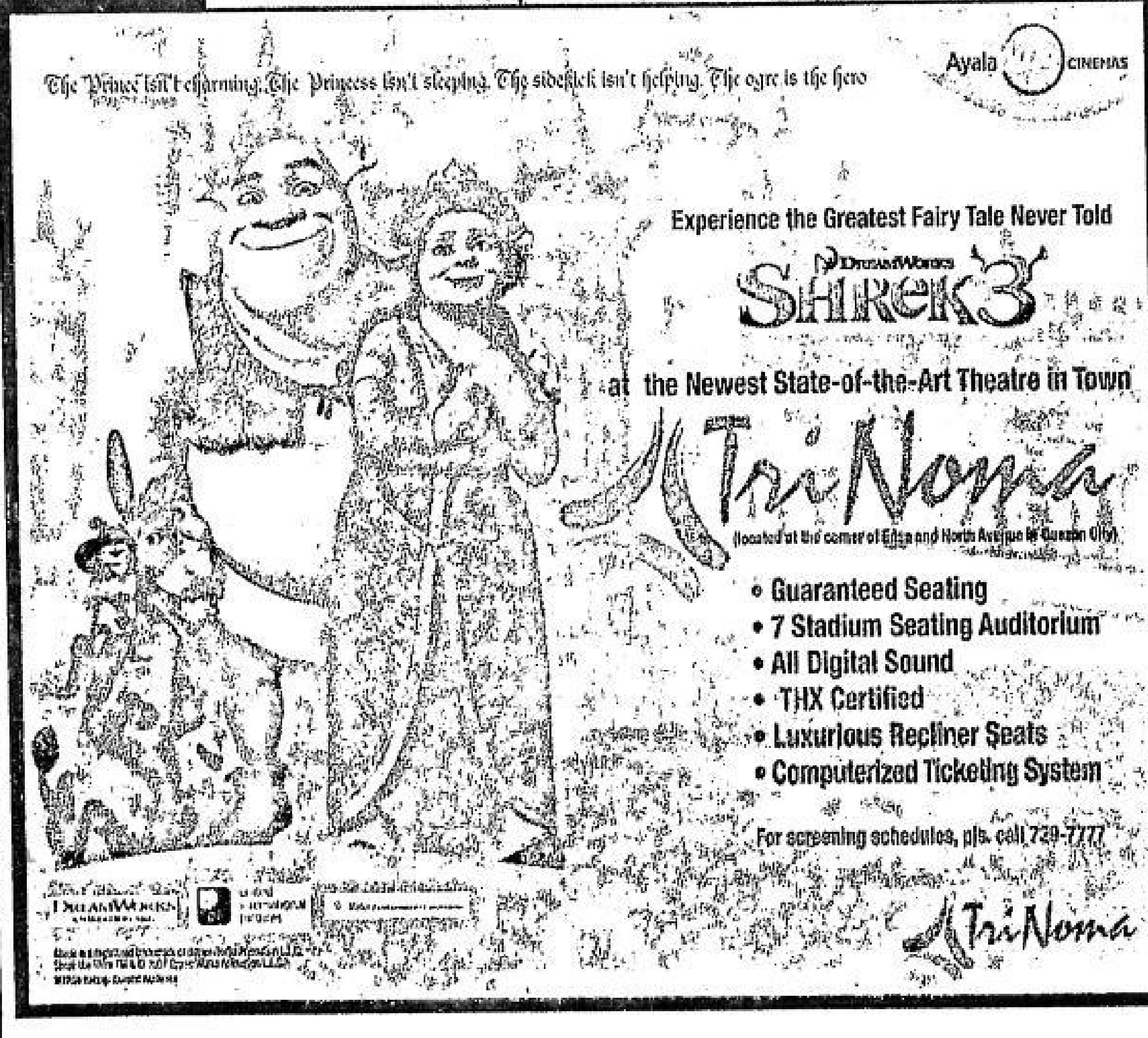
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Best friends for life

TAKE FIVE

By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTRESS DONITA ROSE KNEW what was going on between her best friend Ruffa Gutierrez and the latter's husband, Turkish businessman Yilmaz Bektas.

But, Donita told a group of writers in a press conference on Wednesday, she didn't think it was "that" serious.

"When she announced that she was seeking [annulment], I could feel it was no ordinary [rift]. But [since] I also know Ruffa to be someone who sometimes says some things that she dosn't mean, I was a little hopeful. I realized how bad the situation was when we finally got the chance to talk."

Donita said her closest friend was going through a most painful period. "Ruffa's been through so much in her life [but] she's strong. This is the first time I've seen her really broken."

Ruffa's mother Annabelle Rama has pleaded with Ruffa to not reconcile with Yilmaz. Would you give her the same advice?

You cannot blame any mother who says something like that. Mothers never ever want to let go of their children. I went through many marriage retreats and also counseling, and the No. 1 rule is to never tell your parents or in-laws what you're going through as husband and wife. They tend to get over-protective.

I can understand why Tita Annabelle feels the way she does. Ruffa's the eldest, the only daughter, the princess of the family. She's kind of sheltered. When she got married, her family had no choice but to let her go. I don't think she really told her parents what's going on in her life. Now that there's a problem I think her mother is panicking.

What would you tell Ruffa then?

[I just read] that there is no wasted trial in life. I tell Ruffa to look at every trial as something that can make her better.

Did you get a chance to be close with Yilmaz?

Not really. I've talked to him on the phone a couple of times but met him only three times. Yilmaz is a very charming guy. Even though Ruffa talks about cultural differences now, I know why she fell in love with him.

He's also very smart. I remembered that when they first got together, he couldn't speak English. I had to talk in broken English with him. By the time they got married, he was *conversing* with me in English. He wouldn't be as sucessful as he is in what he does if he weren't smart.

DONITA ROSE

Why do you and Ruffa share such a close bond?

We've been best friends for more than 13 years. A few years back, Ruffa lent me a pair of diamond-studded earrings that I didn't want to wear because I might lose them. Ruffa said, "*Ako'ng bahala s'yo*, girl. You won't." I cannot give the full details but, let's just say somebody took it from me—one of the pair. I was devastated.

I told Ruffa, "I will pay you back." She looked at me and said, "Girl, I know you'd never take what isn't yours. Forget it; it's just money."

I cried very hard. I also prayed for God to please help me get it back. The next day I found out who took it. At that time, the earrings were worth a million pesos. I told myself that this woman would be my best friend for life. Since then we've kept in touch, no matter where we are in the world.

Donita is one of the five hosts of the first episode of Moguls Productions' "Boracay '007: Your Guide to a Dreamy Lifestyle," which airs on May 27, 11 a.m., on The Filipino Channel (TFC) in North America and Asia Pacific; 11:15 a.m. in the Middle East; 11:45 a.m. in Europe.

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NEW VOICE. Partially deaf Priscilla Mae Natividad (second from L), Miss Teen Philippines 1st runner-up, spoke volumes during the pageant. With her are (L-R) 3rd runner-up Ma. Bryne Catherine Marchan, title winner Maxine Ysabel Monasterio, 2nd runner-up Tamara Michelle Johansen and 4th runner-up Patricia Gloria Vargas. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Hearing-impaired but also a role model

By Armin Adina

A HEARING-IMPAIRED PAGEANT CONTESTANT has proven that one's disability is not a setback in becoming a beauty queen.

Despite her disability, Davao's Priscilla May Navidad placed second in the Miss Teen Philippines pageant held recently at the AFP Theater in Quezon City, outshining the other 20 other aspirants.

The 16-year-old, who was also proclaimed Miss Teen Mindanao and Best in Evening Gown, could lip-read.

The audience's cheers when she was named runner-up surpassed the applause when Cagayan de Oro's Maxine Ysabel Monasterio was proclaimed winner.

But everybody appeared happy with the outcome.

Two other finalists are from the south—second runner-up Tamara Johansson from Cebu and third runner-up Byrne Marchan from Siquijor, who was named Miss Teen Visayas and Jag Denim Princess. Only fourth runner-up Patricia Gloria Vargas is from Luzon. She represented Pampanga and was named Miss Teen Luzon, Texters' Choice and Miss Teen Ellipse.

Semifinalist Pebbles Sanchez was proclaimed Miss Teen Metro Manila.

Very articulate

The pageant attracted very articulate young ladies.

Pageant organizers YES! Environment and LiteSpeed Events Inc. said education is a very important criterion in choosing their contestants. Candidates should be currently enrolled and winners are not allowed to leave school during their reign.

The Miss Teen Philippines pageant's goal is to find a role model for teenagers. The pageant does not have a swimsuit competition.

The pageant advocacies for the past four years have ranged from environmental protection, adult reproductive health, teenage rape and youth in nation-building.

THE WINNER, Maxine Ysabel Monasterio. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

This year, the candidates agreed to focus on preserving the environment.

But pageant organizers vowed they would not completely ignore the other advocacies. The environment would just be a focal point of the competition, and the other issues would still be addressed in some activities, they said.

This year's winner, Maxine, will promote environmental protection among the youth as part of the Green Army Juniors Club, an organization patterned after the Green Army Club to be formed in June with the help of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Like last year's winner Jillian Savard, she will also represent the country in the South East Asian Youth Forum on the Environment.

Maxine will also go on a three-week educational trip to Paris, London, Madrid or Tokyo. On top of the P100,000 cash prize, Maxine will also get a four-year college scholarship, a course in personality development and gifts from sponsors.

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

LIVINGstars

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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MARK HERRAS

I HAVE THREE DOGS: A BLACK FRENCH POODLE NAMED KING KONG; A BROWN FRENCH Poodle, Toby; and a black Labrador, Yuki. The time I got King Kong, the Peter Jackson remake of "King Kong" was at the peak of its popularity. Toby has been with us for a long time. Yuki used to be smaller than the poodles, but now she could kill them with one swipe. The thing is, Yuki is just a baby and will still grow bigger. When I take her out for a walk, she ends up pulling me. She's smart. She can unlock the door of her cage.

Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTO BY RODEL ROTONI

FAVORITE NOOKS

BERNADETTE SEMBRANO

THE GARDEN IS MY FAVORITE SPOT AT home. It's only 4m x 6m. I'm very hands-on. I dig soil and push all the plant boxes by myself. I don't mind if I get cuts and bruises. It gives me a high seeing flowers bloom.

I started gardening two or three years ago. At first, all my plants died because I couldn't water them regularly. I recently bought a sprinkler with automatic timer.

From the garden, I also have a breathtaking view of the sunset. (With Bernadette in photo are nephew Mark, 7, and niece Lorin, 3.)

Marinel R. Cruz

SUNSHINE DIZON

I'M CURRENTLY READING "CIVILIZATION: A New History of the Western World" by Roger Osborne. A good friend recommended it to me, saying it would give me perspective on how it all began. Our present problems could be traced to things that happened in the past. I think everyone should familiarize themselves with history. We should know where we came from and what happened in the past, so that we could avoid committing the same mistakes. It's advisable for future leaders to read this book. Also, I just started reading "Falling Leaves: The Memoir of an Unwanted Chinese Daughter" by Adeline Yen Mah.

Bayani San Diego Jr.
PHOTO BY AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

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That's why Dr. Guerrero considers herself more a business woman than a dermatologist. What started out as a two-bed clinic in Davao City in 1994 is now a thriving enterprise with 32 branches spread out all over the country.

To keep on top of nationwide operations, Dr. Guerrero relies on Sun. "We switched to Sun because of the affordable rates," she explains, "you don't have to pay per call. It's because of unlimited call and text."

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10:40 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:000
3 WHISPER
12:20 2:45 5.10 7:35 10:00
4 SHREK 3
3:25 5;30 7:35 9:402:50 5:00 7:10 9:20
5 SHREK 3
2:55 5:00 7:05 9:10
6 FRACTURE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
7 LUCKY YOU
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
8 indieSine: SANDALANG BAHAY
1:10 3:00 4:50 6:40 8:30
9 28 WEEKS LATER
1:10 3:20 5.30 7:40 9:50
10 THE CONDEMNED
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

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3 WHISPER
12:50 3:10 5:30 7;50 10:00
4 28 WEEKS LATER
12:40 2:55 5:10 7:30 10:00
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
6 SHREK 3
3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
7 FRACTURE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

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2 SHREK 3
3.55 6:20 8:40
3 SHREK 3
200 4:25 6:50 9:10
4 28 WEEKS LATER
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00
5 FRACTURE
1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05
6 THE CONDEMNED
11:20 1:45 4:15 6:45 9:10
7 SPIDER-MAN 3
11.00 1:35 4:10 6:45 9:20
8 LUCKY YOU
12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00

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5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 SPIDER-MAN 3

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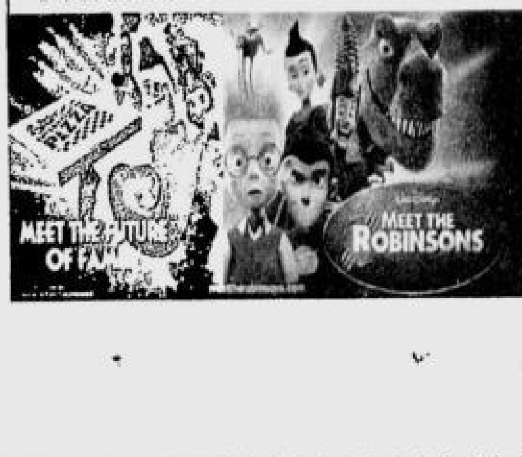
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Christian Bautista for World Vision

CHRISTIAN Bautista

CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA, A WORLD Vision sponsor of two Filipino children, will hold a concert, "Christian Bautista Live!" at the Music Museum tonight to help raise funds for the organization.

The concert will feature songs from his new album of covers, like "Trying to Get the Feeling," "Got to Believe in Magic," "Fixing a Broken Heart" and "Of All the Things."

His guests are Sam Concepcion, star of the Philippine stage adaptation of Disney's "High School Musical," "Philippine Idol" finalist Reymond Sajor and sponsored kids from World Vision Philippines.

World Vision is a child-focused international Christian development, advocacy and relief organization. In the Philippines, it assists more than 120,000 children in 34 provinces and 22 cities. Call 891-9999, 721-6726 or 372-7777.

STARS FOR OTHERS

$1M from Brangelina to Darfur

WASHINGTON—A foundation headed by actors Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt has donated $1 million for use in the relief effort in Sudan's war-ravaged Darfur region and neighboring Chad, where hordes of Darfurians are in camps or homeless.

The Washington office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees announced the donation on Thursday and said it was to go to the UNHCR, the International Rescue Committee and the SOS Children's Villages, a nongovernmental organization. Jolie is a UNHCR goodwill ambassador.

UNHCR said the three agencies are caring for more than 2 million people displaced within Darfur and 240,000 refugees in eastern Chad.

AP

For Katrina victims, too

NEW ORLEANS—The outlines of an eco-friendly residential development backed by actor Brad Pitt were sketched on Thursday in a New Orleans neighborhood hit hard by Hurricane Katrina.

At a 1.25-acre (0.56-hectare) plot in the Holy Cross neighborhood in New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward, the dimensions of the first home, set to be completed by August, were marked with bales of hay.

The narrow, two-story house will borrow from New Orleans' traditional long, thin "shotgun" shacks but incorporate such things as solar energy panels and energy-efficient windows.

Said Pitt: "Our hope is to use this as a template for other people who are rebuilding, a template for other communities in other parts of the US and the world, because this is the paradigm we have to adopt."

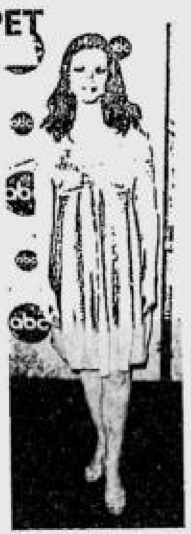
Reuters

ANGELINA Jolie and Brad Pitt with Haitian schoolchildren AP

At the ABC Network upfronts in New York, May 15

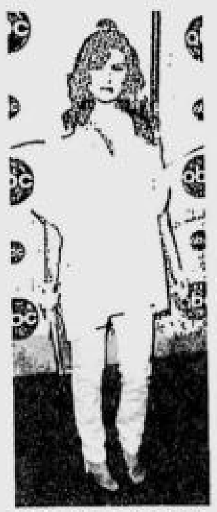
RED CARPET

EVA LONGORIA



MARCIA CROSS

FELICITY HUFFMAN



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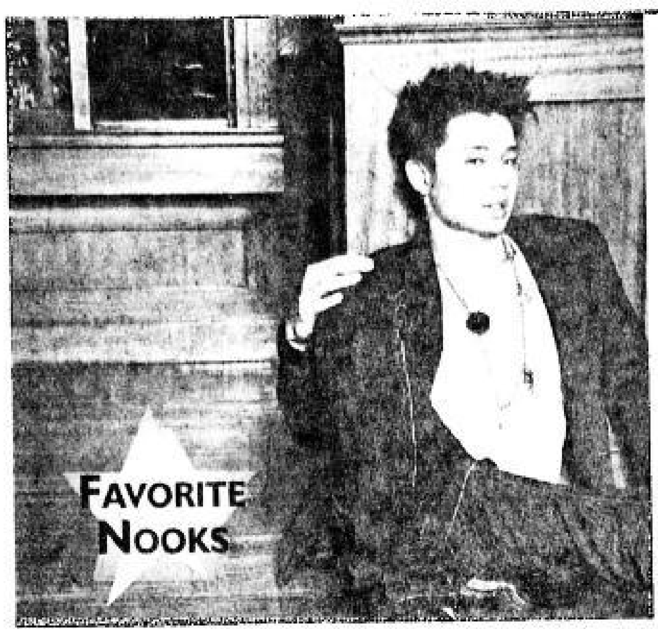
JUNE 15, 2007	Champion of the World (Jed Madela)	8:30 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

KATE WALSH

CALISTA FLOCKHART

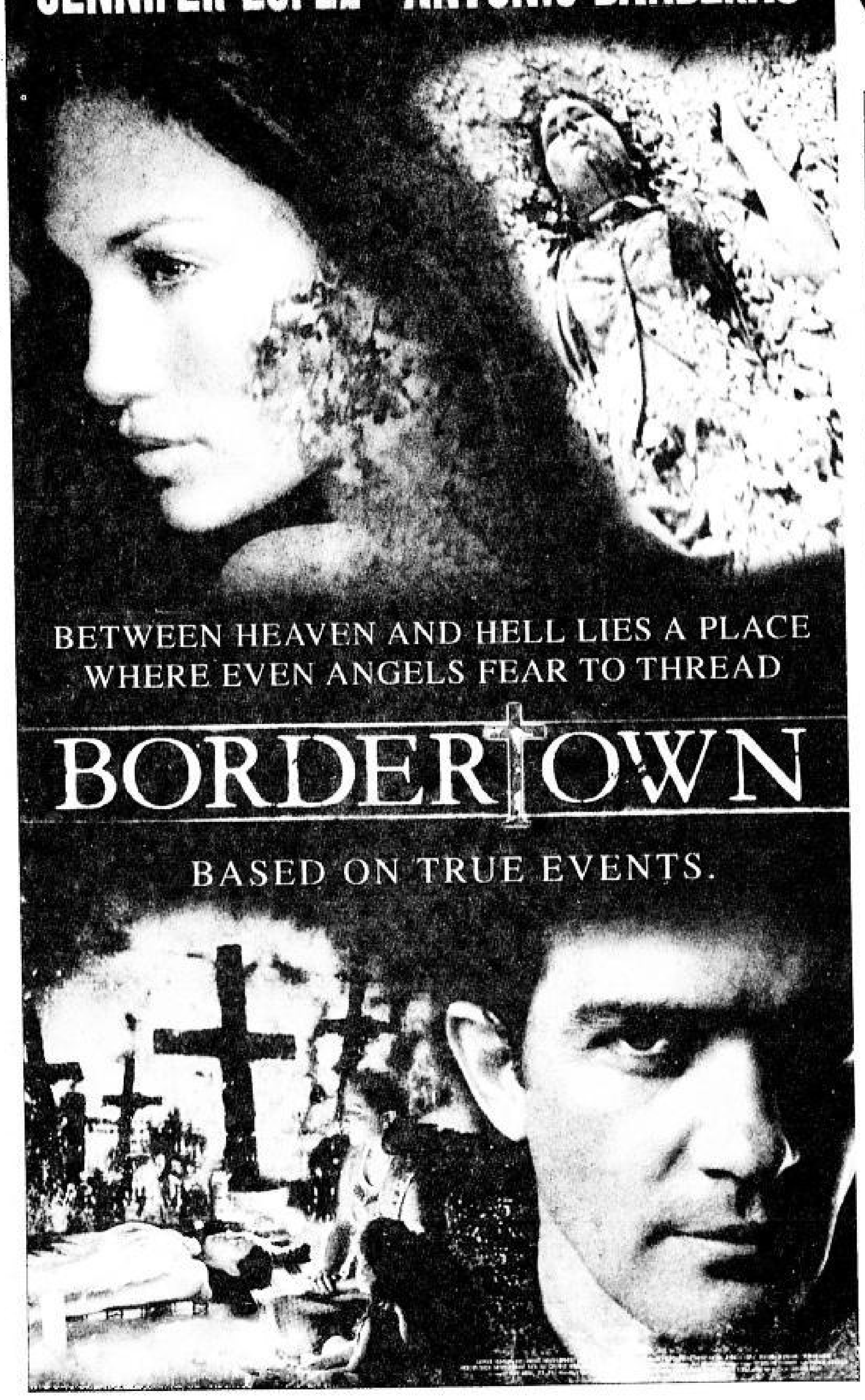


CARLO CONCEPCION

ONE OF MY FAVORITE NOOKS in our Makati home is the guest bathroom. It looks nothing like the rest of the house. While our house is modern, the bathroom is made entirely of wood and has a classic antique feel to it. It's big, spacious and smells good because of all the aroma therapy products in it. My dad stocks it up with different colognes for guests (which I use). *Bayani San Diego Jr.*

OPENS MAY 30

JENNIFER LOPEZ ANTONIO BANDERAS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2 SHREK 3
MTRCB GP 11:40, 1:50
4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30

3 SPIDER-MAN 3
MTRCB GP
1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:15

4 WHISPER
MTRCB: R-13 12:10
2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

PREMIERE THEATRE SHREK 3 (GP)
12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00

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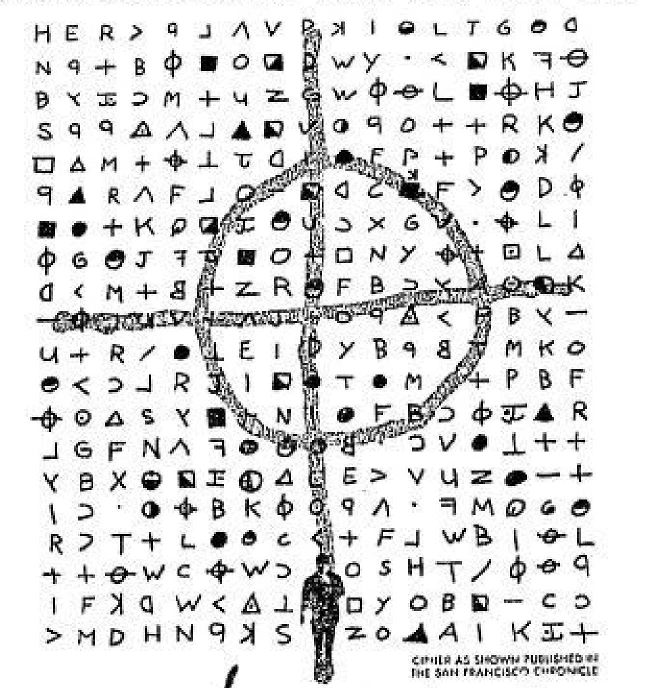

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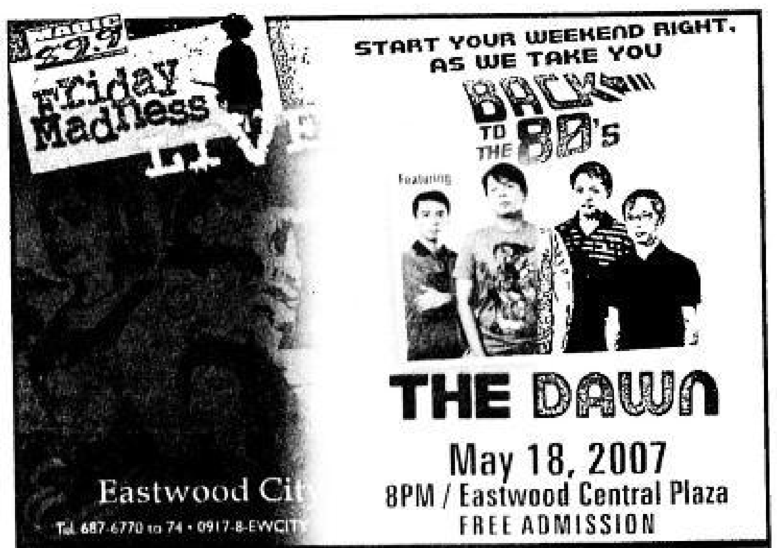

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3	SHREK 3 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:30 G	
4	FRACTURE 1:05, 3:35 G	SPIDER-MAN 3 7:20, 10:30 G

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- 3 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN 3
- 4 (DOLBY) WHISPER

PREMIERE
- (DOLBY) SHREK 3

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- 4 FRACTURE

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- 3 FRACTURE
- 4 DOLBY DIGITAL EX SPIDER-MAN-3
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- 2 SPIDER-MAN-3
- 3 28 WEEKS LATER
- 4 ZOMBIES

SM THEATRES

- 1 SPIDER-MAN-3
- 3 SHOOTER
- 3 THE HILLS HAVE EYES

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- 2 SHREK THE THIRD
- 3 RESRVED
- 4 RESRVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
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- 2 SPIDER-MAN-3
- 3 28 WEEKS LATER
- 4 SHREK THE THIRD
- 5 FRACTURE
- 6 SPIDER-MAN-3
- 7 WHISPER
- 8 SHREK THE THIRD
- 9 SHREK THE THIRD
- 10 CONDEMNED / LUCKY YOU

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

- 1 (DOLBY) SHREK THE THIRD
- 2 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN-3
- 3 (DOLBY) SHREK THE THIRD
- 4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

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- 3 SHREK THE THIRD
- 4 FRACTURE
- 5 SATANICA

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- 2 SPIDER-MAN-3
- 3 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
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- 2 SPIDER-MAN-3
- 3 CONDEMNED

Center Mall Cinema
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- 2 SPIDER-MAN-3
- 3 WHISPER
- 4 PAN'S LABYRINTH

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- 2 TURISTAS

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- 2 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN-3
- 3 (DOLBY) SHREK THE THIRD
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- 2 SHREK THE THIRD
- 3 SPIDER-MAN-3
- 4

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(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

- 1 RESERVED
- 2 RESERVED
- 3 RESERVED
- 4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

- 1 SPIDER-MAN-3
- 2 ROCKY BALBOA
- 3 SHOOTER

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

- 1 SHOOTER
- 2 SUNSHIE
- 3 SPIDER-MAN-3
- 4 THE REAPING

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

- 1 SPIDER-MAN-3
- 2 SHREK THE THIRD
- 3 SHREK THE THIRD

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

- 1 SHOOTER
- 2 SPIDER-MAN-3

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

- 1 SPIDER-MAN-3
- 2 ZOMBIES

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

- 1 SPIDER-MAN-3
- 2 KATAS
- 3 SEX DRIVE
- 4 ZOMBIES

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

- 1 SPIDER-MAN-3
- 2 RUMBLE BOYS
- 3 SHREK THE THIRD
- 4 RAMPADORA
- 5 PERFECT STRANGER

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

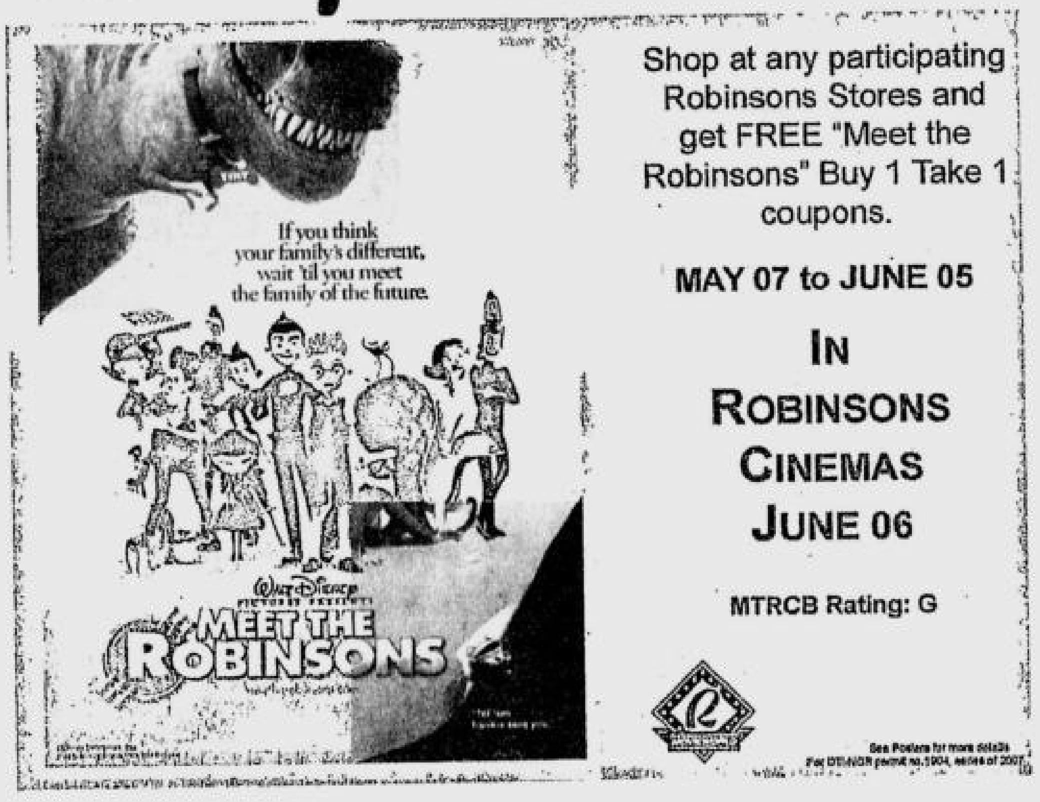
- 1 THE SHOOTER
- 2 SHREK THE THIRD
- 3 THE REAPING
- 4 SPIDER-MAN-3

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

- 1 SPIDER-MAN-3
- 2 SEX EDUCATION

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Valley of the Barbies


If you think your family's different, wait 'til you meet the family of the future.
Walt Disney Pictures presents
MEET THE ROBINSONS
Shop at any participating Robinsons Stores and get FREE "Meet the Robinsons" Buy 1 Take 1 coupons.

MAY 07 to JUNE 05

IN ROBINSONS CINEMAS JUNE 06

MTRCB Rating: G

See Posters for more details
Per DTI-NCR permit no.1904, series of 2007

Rita Iringan, 'Pop Star Kids' champ, collects dolls, including one from her mom Rosanna and another from her 'lolo,' the late Teroy de Guzman

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

PHOTOS BY RODEL ROTONI

IN THE HOME OF RITA IRINGAN, there's an entire room devoted to her collection of dolls.

Barbie is a favorite, says the grand champ of "Pop Star Kids," the youth amateur singing contest on QTV.

The 11-year-old singer-actress collects all things Barbie. "I have a Barbie car. A Barbie doll house. Also, a Barbie laptop."

You get the drift.

It's not all child's play; the toy laptop helped her learn the basics of computer use, she explains.

"It has the usual keys like shift, delete," she recalls.

When she bought a real computer, Rita was already a whiz.

She says that she uses the computer for her school and work assignments.

Rita is a regular on Kapuso shows "SOP" and "Pop Star Kids." She's recording a CD with kiddie group Sugar Pop for Sony-BMG.

She also loves the miniature *bahay kubo* (nipa hut), a surprise from mom, as well as Jolina Magdangal and Christina Aguilera dolls.

"Her dream is to have a line of Rita dolls someday," mom says.

Apart from the US and Philippines, other countries are represented in the toy collection. An exquisite Japanese doll is displayed, along with a Matryoshka doll from Russia, in the living room.

"The Japanese doll was my father's gift to my mother," mom Rosanna related. "The Russian doll was a gift from Rita's godmother."

Rita's grandparents are veteran comedian Teroy de Guzman and former Clover Theater chorus girl Lilian Velarde, both deceased.

Although she never met Lolo Teroy, Rita has seen his old movies on TV. "My mom tells me stories about Lolo. When I don't finish the food on my plate, she reminds me that Lolo won't like that."

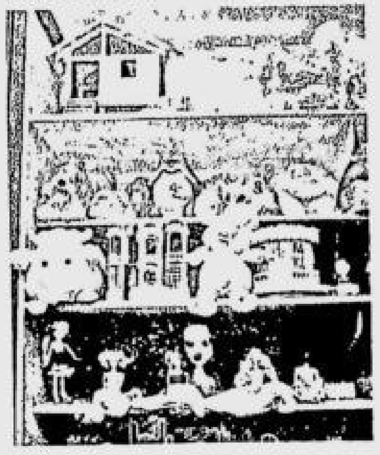
WITH Winnie the Pooh in her bedroom

RED Barbie convertible

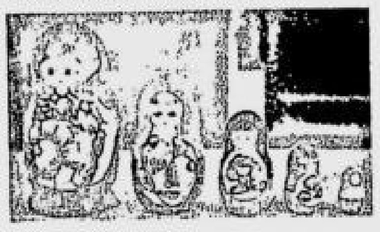
HOME BODY

SHE LEARNED how to use the computer with the help of the Barbie laptop.

ALTHOUGH she never met her Lolo Teroy, she has seen his movies on TV.

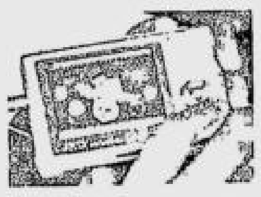


HER COLLECTION of dolls, toy houses and mini-furniture



THE MATRYOSHKA doll from Russia is a gift from a godmother.

JOLENS doll sits in the mini *bahay kubo*.



MP4 PLAYER/ digital camera

WITH Jolina Magdangal and Christina Aguilera dolls

FAMILY photos rest on the piano, which comes in handy for rehearsals.

EXPERIENCE
DREAMWORKS SHREK 3
Camp FAR FAR AWAY
only at SM
SUPERMALLS
Villain's Tattoo Parlor
Stick-on tattooing by Glimmer Body Art
Princesses' House of Beauty
Kids to get Nail Decals and visors
Eat Your Greens
Kids get loot bags of goodies & Shrek bookmarks from Kellogg's
Shrek Sari-Sari Store
Shrek items (stuffed toys, tin cans, pencil cases, apparel). Sustagen milk products with free Shrek hopballs
Rodeo Corral
Kids' camp playground, a padded area for playing hopballs

Visit Camp Far Far Away at the following SM malls!*

SM Megamall	May 19 & 20
SM Supercenter Valenzuela	May 21 & 22
SM City North Edsa	
•Main Mall	May 23 & 24
•The Block	May 25 & 26
SM City Fairview	May 27 & 28

* Simply present SM Cinema ticket stub or SM Cinema Movie Card to enter the camp.

SHREK 3 opens in SM Cinemas this May 18!

MTRCB RATING G FOR GENERAL AUD
THE LONG WAIT IS OGRE
DREAMWORKS SHREK 3
shrek.com
Solar Entertainment Corporation
OPENS TODAY
DREAMWORKS ANIMATION SKG

INQUIRER NATIONAL

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Classifieds Hotline: ☎ 637-2008
FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2007

Japan International Cooperation System

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

UNDER JAPAN'S EMERGENCY GRANT AID 2006
FOR THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received Emergency Grant Aid from the Government of Japan to purchase the goods and incidental services for the "Food-for-Work" program which concerns the relief effort for the people affected by the mudslide and flood disaster caused by the Typhoon "Reming" in Southern Luzon. The Program is carried out by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) of the Republic of the Philippines, and Japan International Cooperation System (JICS) acts as an implementing agent for and on behalf of the DSWD to procure the goods and incidental services utilizing the funds available.

JICS now invites interested bidders to apply for the registration and to bid.

1. Description of the Goods: Family Food packages
   Contents of the packages:
   Family Food Package Type A: Rice, Canned Sardines, Instant Noodles, Canned Corned Beef
   Family Food Package Type B: Rice, Canned Pork & Beans, Dried Fish, and Mongo
2. Approved Budget is approx.USD844,100.- (JPY101,200,000.-)
3. Eligibility of the Bidders
   The eligible firms or companies are limited to the Filipino or Japanese companies who have the following qualifications and conditions:
   Filipino companies are required to satisfy (a) or ((b) to (d)).
   (a) Being registered as a General Merchandiser in the supplier list of the Department of Budget and Management
   (b) Having DTI (the Department of Trade and Industry) business registration name and/or SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) Registration certificate
   (c) Having valid and current Mayor's permit/ municipal license
   (d) Having taxpayer's identification number
   Japanese Companies are required to satisfy (e) to (h).
   (e) Having a registered head office in Japan
   (f) Having a registered branch or representative office in the Republic of the Philippines
   (g) Having valid and current Mayor's permit/ municipal license in the Republic of the Philippines
   (h) Having taxpayer's identification number in the Republic of the Philippines
   In addition to the above qualifications, all companies are required to satisfy the following conditions:
   (i) Not black listed or not suspended from participating in tenders
   (j) Having gross positive income in the last three years
   (k) Having no accumulated deficit
   (l) Having the experience of supplying food items under a contract of which the contractual amount is five (5) million pesos or more in the last three (3) years in the Republic of the Philippines.
4. Registration
   (1) Firms or companies who are interested in participating the tender are requested to contact JICS through e-mail (emph2006@jics.or.jp) to obtain the APPLICATION FORM and submit it to JICS by facsimile, e-mail, courier service or hand delivery (please refer to the below contact details) by 17:30, May 25, 2007 local time in Tokyo (the Filipino Standard Time is one hour behind Tokyo).
   (2) Only qualified firms or companies who have submitted the complete APPLICATION FORM by the said time and date will be registered.
   (3) The registered companies shall be informed of the details of distribution of the Bidding Documents at a later date.

JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION SYSTEM
Attention : Mr. Shunichi KUDO, Program Manager
Project Management Department
5th floor, Shinjuku EAST Bldg., 10-5, Tomihisa-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0067, JAPAN
TEL : +81-3-5369-9541 FAX : +81-3-5369-9502, 9503
URL: http://www.jics.or.jp
E-mail address: emph2006@jics.or.jp

(PDI--May 18, 2007)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephones (632) 5513436 • 5513454 • Facsimile (632) 5513436
E-mail: info@peza.gov.ph • Website: www.peza.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF ENTRANCE & DOOR SIGNAGES FOR PEZA SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES
(PEZA-HO-2007-03)

1. The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (PEZA), through its Corporate Budget for the CY 2007 intends to apply the sum of **Php 1,088,300.00** being the **Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)** to payments under the contract for the **Supply and Installation of Entrance and Door Signages for the PEZA Special Economic Zones.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.
2. The PEZA now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following GOODS:

PARTICULARS	QUANTITY
Entrance Signages (3' x 4' aluminum plate gauge #16 GI post 2" diameter, Sch #40; double posts, reflectorized sticker type; 12mm bars; cement; 1 ½" GI pipe or angular bar)	34 pcs.
Door Signages (5" - 6.5" letter height; 18" x 36" to 36" to 48 1/8" polished brass plates with metal etching)	41 pcs.

3. Delivery and installation of the GOODS is required within thirty (30) calendar days from the date receipt of the Notice to Proceed. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted to Filipino Citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
5. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a single similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC and at least five (5) years experience in the supply and installation of signages. In addition, bidders must have filed their latest annual income and business tax returns (VAT and/or Percentage Taxes covering six (6) months immediately prior to the submission of bids) via the Electronic Filing and Payment System (eFPS) of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.
6. Interested bidders may obtain further information from PEZA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Mondays to Fridays.
7. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from 18 - 25 May 2007, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays from the address below upon submission of a certified copy of their PhilGEPS Registration Certificate and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos Only (P1,000.00). The method of payment will be on a cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
8. The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 29 May 2007, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
9. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11:00 a.m. of 14 June 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than *1% of the ABC.* Late Bids shall not be accepted.
10. Bid opening shall be on 14 June 2007 at 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor Social Hall, PEZA Bldg. III, Roxas Blvd. corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
11. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.
12. The PEZA reserves the right to accept any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3/F PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City
Tel. No. 891-6444 / Telefax No. 551-9587
e-mail: peza_bac_secretariat@yahoo.com
Website: www.peza.gov.ph

(PDI--May 18, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
JP AIXEX GROUP, INC. Suite 801 Ermita Ctr. Bldg., 1350 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila	Kazumichi Toyoda	Project Consultant
LUFTHANSA TECHNIK PHILIPPINES, INC. MacroAsia Special Economic Zone, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City	Klaus Bernhard Kruger-Sprengel	President and Chief Executive Officer
ABBOTT LABORATORIES # 102 EDSA, Mandaluyong City	Enda Ryan	General Manager
PHILKOR ORIENTAL MEDICINE CLINIC, INC. 273 Connecticut St., Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	Joungrye Lee (wife of KONG)	Medical Consultant
HINDUJA TMT, LTD. 89 E. Rodriguez Jr., Avenue, Brgy. Ugong, Quezon City	Bryce Clyde Hayes	Training and Quality Director
PHILKOR ORIENTAL MEDICINE CLINIC, INC. 273 Connecticut St., Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	Soyeong Park	Medical Consultant
PHILKOR ORIENTAL MEDICINE CLINIC, INC. 273 Connecticut St., Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	Keumja Kim	Medical Consultant
PHILKOR ORIENTAL MEDICINE CLINIC, INC. 273 Connecticut St., Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	Chan Hee Im	Medical Consultant
PHILKOR ORIENTAL MEDICINE CLINIC, INC. 273 Connecticut St., Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	Kitae Park	Medical Consultant
JGC CORPORATION MANILA ROHQ 7/F JGC Phil. Bldg., 2109 Prime St., Madrigal Bus. Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Sheng Yee Wong	Mechanical Engineer
M&S (MANILA & SEOUL) CORPORATION Unit 602 Valero Plaza, Valero St., Salcedo Vill., Makati City	Moo Yung Chung	General Manager
KGLOBAL CONSULTANCY AND TRADING INC. 20C Legaspi Tower 300, Ocampo St., Malate, Manila	Abdul Karim Al Khatib	Sales Agent
ATRM, INC. 18/F Security Bank Center, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Martin Stephan Jakob Kurer	President
S.H. CORPORATION Blk.33 Lot 2 University Park Way, Bonifacio Triangle, Global City, Taguig City	Jae Kwan Lee	Deputy Manager
S.H. CORPORATION Blk.33 Lot 2 University Park Way, Bonifacio Triangle, Global City, Taguig City	Yongchul An	General Manager
S.H. CORPORATION Blk.33 Lot 2 University Park Way, Bonifacio Triangle, Global City, Taguig City	Jai Moung Chang	Operation Manager
JGC CORPORATION MANILA ROHQ 7/F JGC Phil. Bldg., 2109 Prime St., Madrigal Bus. Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Takashi Ikeda	Construction Engineer
JGC CORPORATION MANILA ROHQ 7/F JGC Phil. Bldg., 2109 Prime St., Madrigal Bus. Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Choo Kian Leng	Piping Engineer

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity. For more information, please call 339-2013 & 303-6920.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI – May 18, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Region III
DIVISION OF ZAMBALES
Iba
Telefax No. – 047-811-14-21

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education, Division of Zambales through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for

NAME OF THE PROJECT : Supply and Delivery of Elementary Tables & Chairs, Elementary & Secondary Armchairs, and Teachers Tables and Chairs
ABC & FUNDING SOURCE : Funding Source is the Government of the Philippines CY 2006 GAA (75% Allocation of the DepEd Desk/Armchair Project)
CONTRACT DURATION : One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days
DELIVERY SITES : "Door to door" delivery to various recipient schools (See Schedule of Requirements of the Bidding Documents)

LOT	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	ABC (Php)
A	Elementary Table and Chairs (all wood/wood & steel)		
	Teachers Table and Chair (All wood)		
B	Elementary Armchairs for Grades 5 to 6 (all wood)	3,441	2,683,980.00
	Teachers Table and Chair (all wood)	56	257,600.00
C	Secondary Armchairs (all wood)	120	93,600.00
	Teachers Table and Chair (all wood)	1	4,600.00
	TOTAL		3,039,780.00

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	DATE and TIME	VENUE
1. Availability of Bidding Documents	May 18-24, 2007	BAC Secretariat Office
2. Pre-bid Conference	May 28, 2007 – 9:00 AM	Division Office Conference Room
3. Receipt and Opening of Bids	May 30, 2007 – 9:00 AM	Division Office Conference Room

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat Office, DepED Division of Zambales starting on May 18-24, 2007 from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM upon payment of non-refundable amount of Philippine Pesos THIRTEEN THOUSAND PESOS (P13,000.00).

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at http//www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.gov.ph or call DepED-Division of Zambales at Telefax no. 047-811-14-21.

The Department of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) MAY B. ECLAR, Ph.D.
BAC Chairperson

(PDI – May 18, 2007)

City Government of Zamboanga
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **CITY GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBOANGA** invites PhilGEPS registered suppliers to apply for the following item.

Name of Project	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time		Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/ Opening of Bids	
1. Coco Coir Powder (Pre-mix) Micro-organism Enzyme	P2,875,000.00	May 24, 2007	June 04, 2007 10:00 AM	P1,000.00

The Bid documents shall be available at the City Mayor's Office, Procurement Acquisition and Awards Division, City Hall, Zamboanga City starting **May 16-23, 2007** upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

The Pre-Bid conference shall be held at the **City Engineer's Office, Conference Hall, City Hall, Zamboanga City.**

The Bidder shall drop and enclose the original of the Technical Proposal in one sealed envelope; whereas, the original of the Financial Proposal shall be enclosed in another sealed envelope. Both envelopes shall then be placed in another single envelope in the bid box located at the abovementioned address.

For more information, please call the Procurement, Acquisition and Awards Division at telephone no. [062] 992-7763.

The **CITY GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBOANGA** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) MARIO D. ARRIOLA (DVM)
BAC Chaiman

(PDI - March 18, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BUREAU
DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1116
Telephone Nos.: 927-15-17, 928-37-42
Email : emb@emb.gov.ph
Visit us at http://www.emb.gov.ph

DENR-EMB
ISO 14001 Certified

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

On the **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)** of the
PROPOSED COC NO. 41 COAL MINING PROJECT of the
PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
to be located at the Municipalities of Imelda, Diplahan and Malangas,
all in the Province of Zamboanga Sibugay

Notice is hereby given to all parties who wish to give their opinion regarding the implementation of the purposed **COC No. 41 Coal Mining Project** of the **PNOC Exploration Corporation** to attend a Public Hearing on **June 14, 2007** at the **Eligio C. Caracele Memorial Gymnasium in Municipality of Diplahan** starting at **9:00 A.M.**

This Public Hearing is being conducted in connection with the review of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the aforementioned project by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

All interested parties who wish to attend or participate in this Public Hearing should register in person or by mail with the **EMB at DENR Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City** c/o Engr. Esperanza A. Sajul Officer-in-charge of the EIA Division or with the **EMB Region IX with Office address at GMV Drive, Governor Camins Avenue, Zamboanga City**, or at the public hearing itself.

Individual and/or organization may give their opinion(s) in a concise position paper submitted to the EMB Central Office/EMB Region IX on or before June 14, 2007.

For more details, please contact the EIA Division of EMB Central Office through Engr. Rainier D. Reyes at telephone numbers (02) 920-2240 to 42 or the EIA Division of EMB Region IX at telephone number (062) 992-6547

(PDI-May 18 & 25, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
MINDORO STATE COLLEGE
OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY
Alcate, Victoria, 5205 Oriental Mindoro

NOTICE OF SEARCH AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Trustees of the Mindoro State College of Agriculture and Technology formally and publicly announces that the Search for Presidency of the **MINDORO STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY** is now open. Interested applicants and/or nominees are invited to send their formal applications to the Search Committee chaired by Commissioner Saturnino M. Ocampo, Jr.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be a Natural born Filipino citizen;
- A holder of an earned doctorate degree in any academic field relevant to the mission and mandate of the College;
- Must not be more than 60 years old at the time of application;
- Must have a proven track record as administrator for at least five (5) years preferably in the academe; and
- Morally upright and has no record of criminal, civil and/or administrative charges.

In addition to the above-mentioned qualifications, the applicants should make a full disclosure of all administrative, criminal, and/or civil cases filed in any court in the Philippines and are required to submit the following clearances:

- NBI, Sandiganbayan and Previous Employer's Clearances;
- Civil Service Commission Clearance and/or Certificate of No Pending Administrative Case issued by the Administrative Officer of present employer, and
- Certificate of no pending cases issued by the Court where he/she resides.

Formal application addressed to the Search Committee should be accompanied with:

- Detailed Curriculum Vitae (under oath) and authenticated/certified supporting documents;
- The applicant's proposed Vision and Thrust for the College within a four-year period;
- Result of the Neuro-Psychiatric Examination accomplished by a competent physician of a government accredited Test Center;
- Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by a government physician; and
- Under Oath CSC Form 212.

Interested applicants and/or those nominated for the position are requested to submit four (4) sets of their formal application and certified supporting documents on or before June 19, 2007 to:

MR. MARLON N. FABRICANTE
Executive Assistant IV
Office of Commissioner S. M. OCAMPO, JR.
CHED, 5/I, DAP Bldg., San Miguel Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. (02) 636-1690; Telefax No. (02) 636-1693

OR

MS. FELICITAS R. ULEP
Board Secretary
Mindoro State College
of Agriculture and Technology
Alcate, Victoria, 5205 Oriental Mindoro
Telefax No. (043) 286-2368

(PDI--May 18, 19 & 20, 2007)

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS
College, Laguna 4031

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC)
(For supplies, materials, equipment and non-personal services)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Reference No.: UPLB-078-07 & UPLB-077-07

The University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to submit bids for the following item.

Item	End-User	Approved Budget
Audiovisual Equipment	**OVCPD**	**P 4,968,180.00**
Computers, Parts, Supplies, and Peripherals	**Various Units**	**P 2,120,600.00**

Interested parties may secure the bidding documents from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat (BAC-Sec) Office at the International House complex, UP Los Baños. The bid forms may also be downloaded either from UPLB website (http://admin.uplb.edu.ph/bac) or PhilGEPS (https://www.philgeps.net/GEPS). Bidding fee of P 3,000.00 for audiovisual equipment and P 2,000.00 for computers, parts, supplies and, peripherals shall be required from the bidders payable upon securing of the bid documents from the BAC-Sec Office or upon submission of eligibility requirements or on the day of submission/opening of bids.

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

Particulars	Date/Time	Place
Issuance of Bid Documents	**Starts on May 16, 2007** 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM	BAC-SEC
Pre-Bid Conference	**May 25, 2007** 2:00 PM	BAC-SEC
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	**On or before June 4, 2007** 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM	BAC-SEC
Submission/Opening of Bids	**June 6, 2007** 2:00 PM	BAC-SEC

The UPLB reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Inquiries may be forwarded to Alexis C. del Rosario, Chair, BAC-Secretariat at telephone nos. (49) 536-8419 or 536-8420.

ARSENIO N. RESURRECCION
Chair, BAC

(PDI-May 18, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Philsugin Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of two (2) units Pitless Type and one (1) unit Portable Type 60-ton capacity Electronic Truckscales

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of two (2) units Pitless Type and one (1) unit Portable Type 60-ton capacity Electronic Truckscales (Goods for short), with an Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of PESOS: TEN MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY THREE THOUSAND only (P10,763,000.00) only, at the following project sites: NFA Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, NFA Sorsogon, Sorsogon and Davao City (Portable Type). Delivery of the Goods is required within 150 days from issuance of Notice to Proceed.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least a sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, Mr. Piolito C. Santos, Asst. Dept. Manager, DMO and/or Ms. Ma. Dolores Fernandez, Division Chief, DMO, NFA 4th F Philsugin Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City, Tel. No. 453-3900 local 4222 or 454-1214, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be obtained by interested Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee, in cash, in the amount of PESOS: Ten Thousand only (P10,000.00).

The Bidding Schedule is as follows:

Issuance of Eligibility Requirements and Bidding Documents	May 18 to 25, 2007
Pre-Bidding Conference	May 25, 2007, 10:00 AM
Deadline for the Submission of Bids	June 07, 2007, 10:00 AM
Opening of Bids	June 07, 2007 (immediately after Submission)

The venue for the Pre-bidding Conference and Submission and Opening of Bids shall be at the NFA Board Room, 6th F, Philsugin Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City.

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash, Manager's Check or Cashier's Check, in the amount equivalent to five percent (5%) of the Approved Budget Contract. Late Bids will not be accepted.

It is required that prospective bidders must have a single largest contract – completed within the last five (5) years and similar to the contract to bid – whose value adjusted to current prices must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **LUDOVICO J. JARINA**
Deputy Administrator for Operations
and Chairman, BAC

(PDI – May 18, 2007)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project / Brief Description	One (1) lot - Supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of 140 KVA Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) with redundancy for the BSP - Head Office Data Center
Approved Budget for the Contract	P11,200,000.00
Completion Period	Within sixty (60) calendar days after receipt of the approved contract

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project awarded and completed within the last five (5) years (Y2002 to present) amounting to at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activites	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	18 May -31 May 2007 (not later than 1:30 p.m. only)
2. Pre-Bid Conference	1 June 2007, 2:00 p.m., Room MR2A
3. Opening of Bids	19 June 2007, 2:00 p.m.
4. Bid Evaluation	) These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003.
5. Post-qualification	)
6. Notice of Award	)

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P5, 600.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI-May 18, 2007)

PNOC

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1200 Taguig City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO, Tel. Nos. 893-6001 to 47/890-3201 Fax No · 840-1575

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

Plant Wide Annual Preventive Maintenance Services (Mechanical & Others) at the Malitbog Geothermal Power Plant, Leyte
EDC 07-077

The approved budget is **PHP3,535,900.00** chargeable against PNOC-EDC fund. The contract duration is ten (10) calendar days.

Application forms for eligibility and Bid documents may be secured from either of the following:

1. PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila (c/o B.F. Salvador) or
2. PNOC-EDC Cebu Office, Door 1, Sail Center Commercial Complex, J. Briones St., North Reclamation Area, Cebu City (Tel. No. 032-231-7916) (c/o V.A. Villardo)
3. PNOC-EDC Leyte Geothermal Production Field, Tongonan, Leyte (c/o S.O. Guimba)

starting **May 18, 2007** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (PhP1,500.00).**

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **May 25, 2007, 9:30 a.m.** at the Admin Complex, PNOC-EDC Leyte Geothermal Production Field, Tongonan, Leyte.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOC-EDC Contracts Administration Group, 1st Floor, Building V, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, **not later than 2:00 p.m. (Contracts Administration Group Office Wall Clock Time) of June 14, 2007** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(PDI–May 18, 2007)

BAC Chairman

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

Pampanga Lending Center
City of San Fernando, Pampanga

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals for the purchase on **CASH BASIS** of the properties listed below will be received at the Office of the Assistant Vice President, **Pampanga Lending Center, LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES**, 3rd Floor Freluz Bldg., Olongapo-Gapan Road, Dolores, City of San Fernando, Pampanga not later than **May 31, 2007 (Thursday) 10:00 AM** at which place, date and time said proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

DESCRIPTION/LOCATION		MINIMUM BID
(SITE 1) Two (2) parcels of land (Lots 21 & 22 of Blk. 7, LRC Pcs-12678) situated in the Bo. of Dau, Municipality of Mabalacat, Province of Pampanga, containing an aggregate area of 1,935 sqms., registered with the Pampanga Registry of Deeds under TCT Nos. 516810-R & 516811-R in the name of the LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES including improvements erected thereon, re (224 sqm. 2-storey Hotel Bldg., 870 sqm., 2-storey apartment-type Drive-Inn Bldg., 302 sqm., 2-storey apartment-type Drive-Inn Bldg. No. 2, 73 sqm. restaurant bldg.)	P	6,835,504.00
(SITE 2) Three (3) parcels of land (Lots 34, 35 & 36 all of Blk. 7, LRC, Pcs-12678) situated in Dau, Mabalacat, Pampanga containing an aggregate area of 1,513 sqms. registered with the Pampanga Registry of Deeds under TCT Nos. 516808-R, 516807-R & 516809-R in the name of the LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES including a 530 sqm. apartment-type lodging house.	P	4,075,494.00
(SITE 3) A parcel of land (Lots 16, Blk 7, LRC, Pcs-12678) situated in Dau, Mabalacat, Pampanga containing an area of 678 sqms. registered with the Pampanga Registry of Deeds under TCT No. 516812-R in the name of the LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES including a 288 sqm. single storey commercial structure.	P	2,371,680.00

Bid forms, Rules and Regulations may be obtained from the Office of the Assistant Vice President, Pampanga Lending Center, **LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES, 3rd Floor, Freluz Building, Olongapo-Gapan Road, Dolores, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.** *Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above-cited properties before entering their bid.*

The sale of the above-mentioned property/ies is at an **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"** basis. The winning bidder/s shall take possession of the awarded property/ies without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities.

LAND BANK RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN AND TO ACCEPT THE BID MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES SHALL BE FINAL AND BINDING.

(Sgd.) **SVP CECILIA C. BORROMEO**
(Chairman, HOCAD)

(PDI–May 17, 18 & 19, 2007)

Pag-IBIG Fund
Bacolod Branch Office

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF MODULAR PARTITIONS AND FURNITURE AT PAG-IBIG FUND BACOLOD BRANCH OFFICE

The Pag-IBIG Fund, Bacolod Branch Office, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Goods & Services intends to apply the sum of Six Million Nine Hundred Eighty Four Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Eight (P 6,984,228.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF MODULAR PARTITIONS AND FURNITURE AT PAG-IBIG FUND BACOLOD BRANCH OFFICE. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The Pag-IBIG Fund Bacolod Branch now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply, Delivery and Installation of Modular Partitions and Furniture at Pag-IBIG Fund Bacolod Branch Office. Delivery of the goods is required within sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of Notice of Award.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A.9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted to Filipino citizen/s sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section III of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Pag-IBIG Fund Bacolod Branch Office and inspect the Bidding Documents at Administrative Division on May 18, 2007 to May 24, 2007 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Six Thousand Pesos (P 6,000.00) in the form of CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Pag-IBIG Fund, Bacolod Branch Office will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on May 25, 2007 at 10:00 AM – 12:00 NN at the Conference Room, Administrative Division, Milagros Building, Rosario-Gatuslao Sts., Bacolod City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the Administrative Division, Milagros Building, Rosario-Gatuslao Sts., Bacolod City on or before 10:00 AM of June 7, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form indicated in the Terms of Reference. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on June 7, 2007 at Milagros Building, Rosario-Gatuslao Sts., Bacolod City at 10:00 AM. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

The Pag-IBIG Fund, Bacolod Branch Office reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(SGD.) **WILFREDO S. SEMOLAVA, CPA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI--May 18, 2007)

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION FINANCING CORPORATION

Suite 401 OMM-CITRA Building
# 39 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
Tel Nos. (02) 637-3664 or 637-3666

URGENTLY NEEDS

LOANS OFFICER

Qualification Requirements

Bachelors Degree from accredited University in Finance, Accounting or Business. CPA, MBA, or equivalent advanced degree preferred. Must be between age 30-40. Preferably Male.

Required Skills and Knowledge

Able to understand complex loan, supervised credit and business concept procedures. Ability to delegate authority, yet retain final responsibility. Able to manage complex situations. Interpersonal and motivational skills. Ability to conceptualize ideas and present those ideas to others. Team player. Leadership qualities. Must be bondable.

Work Experience

At least five years experience of progressive management in finance institutions or institutions providing financial services to Philippine Electric Utilities.

Interested persons can submit their application and resume at Suite 401 OMM-CITRA Building, # 39 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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WEST VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY

ILOILO CITY

NOTICE OF SEARCH FOR PRESIDENT

The Board of Regents of the West Visayas State University (WVSU), Luna St. La Paz, Iloilo City, formally and publicly announces that the **Search for Presidency of the West Visayas State University (WVSU) is NOW OPEN.**

Minimum Personal Qualifications:

1. Preferably be at least thirty five (35) years old but not more than sixty (60) years old on the date of the application for the position
2. Must be a Filipino citizen.
3. Must be a holder of an earned doctoral degree.
4. Must have proven track record as top administrator in academic field such as President, Vice-President, Dean or Campus Director/Administrator, whether in private or public, for at least a period of five (5) years. This must be supported by documents (e.g. Certification or Special Order from the concerned party) stating the managerial, professorial and/ or administrative experience and the period covered.
5. Must possess leadership in school administration and managerial skills within the purview of the needs, thrusts, goals and objectives of the state college/university.
6. Must be of good moral character.
7. Must have not been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude or administrative charge.

Qualified applicants should submit the following:

1. Formal Application Letter addressed to:

   Hon. Hadja Luningning M. Umar
   Chair of the Board of Regents
   Commissioner, CHED
   Upper 5th Floor, DAP Bldg.
   San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center
   Pasig City 1605

2. Curriculum Vitae with certified/authenticated supporting documents.
3. Applicant's Proposed Vision, Mission and Thrusts for the University
4. Results of the Neuro-psychiatric Examination accomplished by a government physician as recommended by the Search Committee.
5. Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by a government physician from a reputable medical center
6. Clearance Certificates (original) from the following:
   a. Ombudsman or Sandiganbayan
   b. Civil Service Commission
   c. National Bureau of Investigation
7. Accomplished CSC Form 212, under Oath
8. Statement of Assets and Liabilities as of Year 2006

Interested applicants must send the above mentioned documentary requirements in seven (7) sets/ copies on or before June 20, 2007 to either of the following:

Comm. Nona S. Ricafort
Chair, Search Committee
Upper 5th Floor, DAP Bldg.
Commission on Higher Education (CHED)
Pasig City 1605

Attn: **Ms. Imelda G. Calvo**
Executive Assistant

Comm. Hadja Luningning M. Umar
Chair, Board of Regents
West Visayas State University (WVSU)
La Paz, Iloilo City 5000

Attn: **Ms. Belen Carreon**
Acting Board Secretary

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Oriental Negros

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Capitol, Dumaguete City

Date: May 18, 2007

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Oriental Negros, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contracts:

1 Name of Contract: Construction/Rehabilitation, Brgy. Cabanlutan - Brgy. Panalaan, Bais City Farm-to-Market Road, Bais City, Oriental Negros

SCOPE OF WORK:

ITEM NO.		QUANTITY
100	Clearing and Grubbing (Widening)	12,000.00 sq.m.
105	Subgrade Preparation	21,100.00 sq.m.
201	Aggregate Base Course	4,220.00 cu.m.
311	Portland Cement Concrete Pavement	500.00 cu.m.
-	Double Barrel Box Culvert	1.00 unit

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABCO) P 6,650,000.00
Contract Duration 157 Calendar Days

2 Name of Contract: Construction/Rehabilitation/Improvement, Balayong - Inawasan - Bahian - Pal-ew-Mansangaban Road Section, Pamplona - Tanjay City - Bais City, Oriental Negros

SCOPE OF WORK:

ITEM NO.		QUANTITY
100	Clearing and Grubbing (Widening)	9,000.00 sq.m.
105	Subgrade Preparation	15,500.00 sq.m.
201	Aggregate Base Course	3,100.00 cu.m.
311	Portland Cement Concrete Pavement	500.00 cu.m.
-	Double Barrel Box Culvert	21.00 l.m.

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABCO) P 5,700,000.00
Contract Duration 146 Calendar Days

3. Name of Contract: Concreting, Brgy. Bagtic - Mabinay - Brgy. Luyang, Manjuyod, Farm0to-Market Road, Mabinay, Oriental Negros

SCOPE OF WORK

ITEM NO.		QUANTITY
105	Subgrade Preparation	7,000.00 sq.m.
201	Aggregate Base Course	1,200.00 cu.m.
311	Portland Cement Concrete Pavement	400.00 cu.m.

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABCO) P 2,850,000.00
Contract Duration 100 Calendar Days

4 Name of Contract: Construction/Rehabilitation, Brgy. Buenavista, Sta. Catalina to Brgy. Banawe, Pamplona Farm to Market Road, Sta. Catalina - Pamplona, Oriental Negros

SCOPE OF WORK

ITEM NO.		QUANTITY
100	Clearing and Grubbing	32,000.00 sq.m.
102	Excavation	14,400.00 cu.m.
105	Subgrade Preparation	48,000.00 sq.m.
200	Aggregate Sub-base Course	1,000.00 cu.m.
-	Pipe Culverts and Storm Drains	28.00 l.m.

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABCO) P 3,800,000.00
Contract Duration 140 Calendar Days

5 Name of Contract: Construction of Magsusunog - Banawe Road, Pamplona, Oriental Negros

SCOPE OF WORK:

ITEM NO.		QUANTITY
100	Clearing and Grubbing	12,800.00 sq.m.
102	Excavation	6,400.00 cu.m.
500	RCPC (10 lines 0.90m Ø x 7.00m with Headwall)	70.00 l.m.
105	Subgrade Preparation	24,000.00 sq.m.
201	Aggregate Base Course	1,404.00 cu.m.

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABCO) P 2,850,000.00
Contract Duration 85 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examinations of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1 Receipt from prospective bidders of Letter of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	May 21 - May 28, 2007 - GSO, Office Hours
2 Issuance of Eligibility Forms	May 21 - May 28, 2007 - GSO, Office Hours
3 Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	May 29 - June 1, 2007 - PEO, Office Hours
4 Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	June 6, 2007
5 Issuance of Bid Documents	June 7, 2007 - PEO, Office Hours
6 Pre-Bid Conference	June 15, 2007, GSO, 10:00 AM
7 Receipt and Opening of Bids	June 28, 2007 - GSO, 10:00 AM

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Capitol Area, Dumaguete City, upon their submission of a LOI and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P 500.00) to the Provincial Treasurer Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to the eligible for the Bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P 2,500.00) to the Provincial Treasurer Cashier.

The BAC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses deemed in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) Atty. **ISMAEL P. MARTINEZ**
BAC Chairman

Note: Inquire at the Provincial Engineer's Office regarding the Letter of Intent including Application for Eligibility Forms.

(PDI--May 18 & 25, 2007)

Philkingdom, INC. is a company sanctioned by PAGCOR to provide entertainment in the form of sports betting. We have a complete Sports Book which offers its customers guaranteed payouts, extensive coverage of all major football leagues and international sporting events. We are inviting hard working and highly motivated young people who are looking for a long-term career to join us as: (Preferably with sports betting experience)

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preferably at least 3 years experience in the local distribution channels of products & services

2. Marketing Executives
preferably at least 1 year experience in marketing local products and services

3. Sales Executives
preferably at least 1 year experience in outdoor sales

4. Certified Public Accountants
preferably a least 2 yrs. experience in accounting work

5. Bookkeepers
no experience required

6. Data Entry Staff
no experience required

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Interested applicants are requested to submit resumé with 2x2 picture to **joetang@philkingdom.com**

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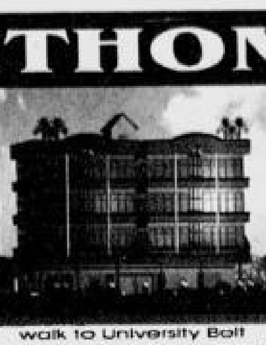

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UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the Special Bids and Awards Committee, University of the Philippines System, Diliman, Quezon City, not later than 1:00 pm on June 8, 2007 at the School of Labor and Industrial Relations (SOLAIR), University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City for the selection of rice supplier.

Total approved budget ceiling : Php 7,500,000.00

The Pre-bid conference will be held on May 25, 2007 at 1:00 pm, at SOLAIR.

Bid documents at Php 8,000.00 per set are available starting May 18, 2007 at the UP System Supply and Property Management Office, Basement, Quezon Hall, UP Diliman, Quezon City. Contact person: Mr. Isagani L. Bagus, Telefax No.: 926-4919.

The University of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defect or informality required in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the University.

(Sgd.) CYNTHIA GRACE C. GREGORIO
Chair, Special Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – May 18, 2007)

OBITUARIES

WISTRON IS IN NEED OF HIGH-CALIBER CANDIDATES WHO CAN FILL UP THIS POSITION:

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- Must have experience in Material Planning & Procurement specifically Computer manufacturing.
- Familiar with market information and global production control computer application operation.

Requirements:

- Updated resume with recent photo
- Diploma / Transcript of Records
- Birth Certificate
- NBI
- Employment Certificate

Submit all requirements at:
#4 Rizal Hi-way cor. Aim High Ave.,
Subic Bay Industrial Park
Phase 1, Subic Bay Freeport Zone
Tel. No. (047) 252-7740

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
Department of Education, Training & Research

Announces the opening of the following courses:

Cardiac Sonography Training Course (CSTC)
Peripheral Vascular Technician Training Course (PVTTC)

The course aims to provide participants with the basic theory and update in ultrasound and the technique with practical "hands-on" experience. After the course, the Technician will be expected to attain a minimum level of expertise in doing the procedure based on proper technique and theory.

The program will commence on May 22, 2007. Registration is limited to 15 participants in the CSTC and 3 participants in the PVTTC.

For inquiries or registration requirements and course fees, please contact:

Mr. Elmer Collong/Ms. Issa Uy Tan
Telephone number : 9252401 local 3828, 3827, 3830 / 9269622
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OBIT

Death Notices

RODOLFO BOLINAS DOMINGO

Photographer of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority

Joined his Creator last May 15, 2007 at the age of 64.

His body lies in state at Don Bosco Chapels in Makati City, Metro Manila. He was survived by his wife Evelyn, children Voltaire and Grethel Domingo-Raypon, daughter- and sons-in-law and three grandchildren.

Interment will be announced later.

—oOo—

AMANDA (Manda) BUELVA BELLEZA

(of Balaton, Lagonoy and Goa, Camarines Sur)

peacefully joined our Lord on May 14, 2007 at the age of 75.

Her remains lie in state at her residence in Bagumbayan Pequeno St., Goa, Camarines Sur.

Interment will be today, May 18, 2007, at Goa Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00 PM Mass at Goa Catholic Church.

Dr. RENE O. SANTIAGO

(U.P. Preparatory Class 1958)
(U.P. College of Medicine Class 1966)

February 13, 1943 – May 15, 2007
of Malolos, Bulacan and Michigan, U.S.A.

was welcomed in the loving embrace of our Heavenly Father on May 15, 2007 at his residence in Plymouth, Michigan at the age of 64.

His loving wife, **Carol Horowski**

His loving children, **Leslie** and **Isaac**; **Lynette** and **Arteen**

His loving grandchildren, **Evelyn Sofia** and **Emma Elizabeth**

His brothers, **Salvador, Jr.**, **Rodolfo** and **Eduardo** and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Viewing of his earthly remains will be at the UHT Funeral Homes, Westland, Michigan, today, May 18, 2007.

Funeral Mass will be held at the St. Mary's Church, Wayne, Michigan on Saturday, May 19, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. afterwhich cremation follows.

Appropriate memorial services will be held in the Philippines on a date to be announced later.

For info and details, Pls. contact Mr. Eddie Santiago at (044) 690-0522 or (0917) 517-8606.

OUR BELOVED

CAROLINE UY CANA CHUA

of Tarlac, Tarlac and Angono, Rizal

Peacefully joined our Creator at Taichung Veterans General Hospital at 12:02 p.m., May 09, 2007. She left behind her loving husband, **Arsenio Ong Chua**, children: **Aileen Carmina**, 10 years old, **Aldrich Cyrus**, 8 years old, **Arleen Cassey**, 7 years old, 8 brothers and 3 sisters.

Her remains lie in state at the **Taichung City Funeral Morgue Hall, No. 50 Chong De Road, Taichung City, Chapel 19.** Daily prayers are offered until May 18, 2007. A holy Mass will be held on May 19, 2007, 8:30 a.m., followed by her cremation at 10:00 a.m.

Her cremains will be brought back to the Philippines on May 20, 2007 and will lie in state at **Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc., 12 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.**

Interment will be on **May 23, 2007 at Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Tarlac City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.**

ATTY. FELIPE E. LUSTRE

peacefully joined our Lord on May 10, 2007 at the age of 80.

His bereaved family: wife **Atty. Amy Almodal-Lustre**; children: **Minnie Lustre-Luspo, Grace Lustre-Sanchez, Divina Lustre, Diwata Lustre-Montoya, Leon Lustre, Atty. Beth Lustre-Talbot**; sons-in-law: **Jay Luspo, Bart Sanchez, Dennis Montoya, Richard Talbot** (†); grandchildren: **Gerald Sanchez, Tamara Allen Montoya, Paulina Montoya,** and **Lauren Luspo** request family and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.
His remains were cremated on May 16, 2007 at Loyola Crematorium (Marikina City).

> **"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."**
> — 2 Corinthians 5:8

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
Tel. Nos. : 712-3001 • 749-3806 to 11

NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION DATE & TIME	INTERMENT/CREMATION PLACE
Rodolfo "Jody" A. Evangelista	Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish Church Philamlife Homes, Q.C.	5/19/2007 11:00 a.m.	Paz Crematory
Tomas Enriquez Abiaza Sr.	Chapel-C-12	19-May-07 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass	North Cemetery
Antonio Justo	Chapel-5	to be announced later	Loyola Mem. Park-Marikina

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The Most Rev. Ramón C. Argüelles, D.D, Archbishop of Lipa,
The Most Rev. Salvador Q. Quizon, D.D, Former Auxiliary Bishop of Lipa,
The Clergy, Religious and Lay Faithful of the Archdiocese of Lipa

announce the sudden demise due to massive cardiac arrest of

REV. FR. AMANDO GENER CARANDANG, JCL

on Saturday, May 12, 2007, in Rome, at the age of 38.

Fr. Andy was ordained on December 11, 1995. He has been in Rome since September 2005 to pursue his doctoral studies in Canon Law at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, and was expected to defend his dissertation in October 2007. He finished Bachelor of Theology and Licentiate in Canon Law at the University of Navarre, Spain in 1995.

Our dearly beloved Fr. Andy served the Archdiocese for almost 12 years in the following capacities:

Formator-Professor	St. Francis de Sales Theological Seminary, Marawoy, Lipa City
Formator-Professor-Dean of Studies	St. Francis de Sales College Seminary, Marawoy, Lipa City
Member	Archdiocesan Matrimonial Tribunal
Parochial Vicar	Parish of St. Isidore Labrador, Cuenca, Batangas

The family of Fr. Andy,
Parents: ***Eliseo & Clarita Gener***
Siblings:
**** Ananette - Fernando Cacacho***
  - Ma. Jasmin - Dean Bernardino
    - Deanna Bernice
  - Jose Fernando
  - John Paolo
  - Joanna Marie
**** Arturo - Elenita Baon***
  - Ma. Cherrylane - Jed Nino Abuyo
    - Jhemm Amirah
    - John Kim Amiel
    - Jerome Lemuel
**** Antonio***
**** Ma. Antonietta - Cielito Ortal***
  - Julius Christian
  - Jonathan Czeus
  - Ma. Jean Claudette
**** Ma. Aurora - Ron Abierra***
  - Aaron Gerald
**** Angelo - Ruth Danico***
  - Jean Paul
  - Mary Angela

share in our belief that truly, God has His own better plans. He has willed to deign Fr. Andy the Fullness of Life sooner than we expected, and we can only trust and accept His Divine Will.

Schedule of wake, transfers, Mass of the Resurrection, and Interment:

St. Francis de Sales College Seminary Marawoy, Lipa City	20 May, Sunday	Public viewing & Masses from	6:00 am
	21 May, Monday	Farewell Mass	9:00 am
		Transfer to Cuenca	1:00 pm
Parish of St. Isidore Labrador Cuenca, Batangas	21 May, Monday	Farewell Mass	2:30 pm
		Transfer to Tuy	3:30 pm
Parish of St. Vincent Ferrer Tuy, Batangas	21 May, Monday	Public viewing & Masses from	5:00 pm
	23 May, Wednesday	Mass of the Resurrection	9:30 am

Interment follows immediately at the Tuy Memorial Park.

Please omit flowers. Donations to the St. Joseph Seniorate, Home for the Aged and Sick Priests of the Archdiocese of Lipa, will be deeply appreciated.

RODOLFO "Jody" A. EVANGELISTA

Peacefully joined our Lord and his parents on May 16, 2007 at the age of 58.

His family, **Gigie**, children **Kaboobee** & **Grant**, **Mark**, **Michael** & **Marilou**, brothers and sisters-in-law, **Ronnie** & **Thelma**, **Bobby** & **Felicia** and sister **Rowie**, nephews and nieces, **Rachel**, **Rhoanne**, **Raymond** (†), **Samara**, **Billy** & **Patricia**, relatives and friends join in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish Church, Philamlife Homes, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Saturday, May 19, 2007 after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

ROSEMARY D. NEBRAO-GARCIA

of Quezon City and Zamboanga City
peacefully joined our Creator on May 15, 2007 at the age of 43.

Her bereaved husband **CARLO**; son **ANDRE** and parents **JOE & ROSE NEBRAO**; brother **JOSEPH & CYNTHIA**; sisters **RACHEL** and **ROCHELLE** and niece **ALEXIA**; nephew **JOSHUA**; grandlola **CION**; uncles, aunties, cousins, relatives and friends, request you to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body now lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will take place at Forest Lake, Zamboanga City. The body will be flown to Zamboanga on Saturday, the 19th of May 2007.

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Cilostazol prevents secondary stroke

THE FEAR OF ANOTHER STROKE has always been the sword of Damocles in many stroke patients. A study has shown that taking the antiplatelet cilostazol can reduce the incidence of stroke among high risk patients, especially those who already suffered from it before.

The Cilostazol Stroke Prevention Study (CSPS) was a double-blind and placebo-controlled trial done in Japan involving more than 1,000 patients who had a previous stroke. It nvestigated the preventive effects of cilostazol on the recurrence of cerebral infarction (stroke) and it showed a 41.7-percent risk reduction of secondary stroke events with cilostazol compared to placebo.

Stroke is also known as brain attack. It happens when the vital supply of blood and oxygen is cut off to a part of the brain. There are several kinds of stroke. Ischemic stroke, which is the more common kind of stroke, is caused by a blood clot that occludes a blood vessel in the brain. Transient ischemic attack (TIA) happens when there is a temporary interruption of blood flow to a part of the brain. The second kind is hemorrhagic stroke which happens when a blood vessel bursts, usually due to elevated blood pressure, and bleeds into the brain.

People with hypertension, diabetes mellitus, cholesterol problems, and those who smoke and under excessive stress are all at risk of having stroke. Those who already experienced a stroke are at a particularly high risk of a subsequent stroke. The risk of patients having a second stroke is greatest in the first 30 days after their first attack but remains elevated over time.

Since previous stroke is the single most important risk factor for a subsequent stroke, the use of agents in secondary prevention is particularly important. The findings of CSPS are particularly important because it offers an effective therapeutic strategy for the prevention of a second stroke.

Efficacy on PAD

Cilostazol has already been proven to reduce the incidence of stroke among high-risk patients but the clinical indication of the drug doesn't end there. Earlier studies showed that cilostazol can improve the symptoms of peripheral arterial disease (PAD), a disease which causes narrowing of the arteries in the lower extremities causing intermittent claudication. This is felt by patients as pain in the muscles of the thighs and legs after walking some distance, and relieved after resting. Claudication may also be described as fatigue, numbness, or a cramping sensation. Symptoms may get progressively worse and may even cause leg gangrene in severe cases particularly in diabetics.

In the United States, eight trials were done to test the efficacy of cilostazol versus placebo in the treatment of intermittent claudication. Patients taking cilostazol improved 44 to 50 percent in maximal walking distance compared to the 21 percent achieved by those taking placebo. Changes in pain-free walking distance showed a similar pattern to maximal walking distance and were significantly greater for cilostazol patients.

Effective agents such as cilostazol are available to treat stroke and PAD. However, people are reminded that the best cure for these kinds of illnesses is prevention. High risk patients are encouraged to lead a healthier lifestyle. They are also advised to seek the help of a doctor once they feel the initial symptoms of these conditions.

For more inquiries about PAD and the I-PAD Awareness campaign, call the PAD Connect Hotline at 811-i-PAD (811-4-723) for Metro Manila or 1-800-1888-i-PAD (1-800-1888-4723) for provincial area or visit www.otsuka.com.ph.

SEATRANS CORPORATION
(PETROLIFT GROUP)
SB CAPITAL
Php 73

PATRICIA MAY T. SIY

SB CAPITAL ARRANGES SEATRANS LOAN FACILITY

SB Capital Investment Corp recently served as coordinating arranger for Seatrans Corp's (Petrolift Group) P736-million term loan facility with Security Bank Corp (SBC). Shown are SB Capital president Remy T. Tigulo (3rd from right) and executive vice president Conrado A. Gloria Jr (right) during the loan agreement signing ceremony held May 3 at the Brasserie 21, Security Bank Centre in Makati City. Also shown are (from left) SBC vice president Luis S. Elizaga; SBC senior vice president and head of corporate relations group Patricia May T. Siy; SBC president and chief executive officer Alberto S. Villarosa; Seatrans Corp chair Leonardo L. Leonio; and Seatrans Corp vice chair and chief financial officer Clarissa Leonio-Asuncion.

ANIMALAND OPENS AT FORT BONIFACIO

Last April 19 Animaland welcomed stuffed toy lovers to its new haven located at the posh Fort Bonifacio High Street. The launch was made more fun and interesting with activities specially designed for kids. Visit Animaland at 4th Level Shangri-La Edsa Mall, 2nd Level Alabang Town Center, 2nd level Glorietta 2, Toy Kingdom at the Mall of Asia, Toys R Us at Robinsons Galleria, and at Bonifacio High Street, Taguig. Soon to open at: Ayala's Trinoma. Shown are Dr. Momi Bernardo of Pawvi Inc; Belinda Dy, chief executive bear of Animaland Phils; Kim Atienza; Dr. Oyie Sebastian of Pawvi Inc.

OVER 100 RIDERS IN HONDA ONE MAKE RACE

A spectacularly large crowd witnessed the 14th leg of Honda One Make Race at Melvin Jones Football Field, Burnham Park, Baguio City with over 100 riders/participants including some from Metro Manila and Northern Luzon. A week prior to the Honda One Make Race, a Caravan for Honda Bravo kicked-off April 17 at the Honda Motorcentrum in Marilao, Bulacan, then later followed by motorcades and leafleting activities in key areas of San Fernando and Angeles, Pampanga (April 17); Tarlac, Paniqui, Gerona, Moncada, Urdaneta, Calasiao, and Dagupan (April 18); Mangaldan, Damortis, and Bauang (April 19); and ended in April 20 in San Fernando, La Union, La Trinidad, and Baguio in preparation for the One Make Race. The Honda One Make Race aims to discover and develop a new breed of Filipino Riders who can be the official Philippine representatives in international races like the Asean Cup.

Eastwood City's psychics fest ongoing

THE MID-YEAR IS THE BEST time to assess how you've done during the past five months and find out what aspects you can improve on in your life for the rest of the year.

You may do just that by visiting the 5th edition of the highly anticipated Psychics' Festival at Eastwood City from May 11 to 20. This time around, a new line up of fortune readers from all over the archipelago will converge in your favorite city and introduce new divination tools.

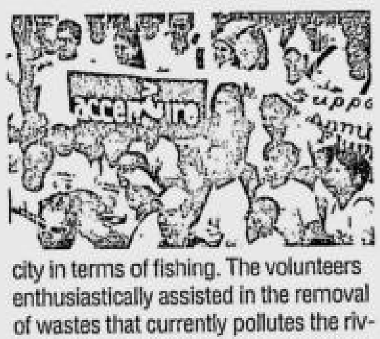
Among these are readings involving smoke, water, fire, and stone. After asking which element you desire, your divination consultant will then use the trails of the smoke, the water ripples, the flame, and the stone's shape and markings to peer into your past and future. Magnetic cleansing is also a new offering and will go along with popular divination mainstays such as Tarot cards, handwriting analysis, and numerology.

So, do bring along your friends and family to find out what's in store for you for the rest of 2007, only at Eastwood City. Call 6876770-74 or text 0917-8-EWCITY for more details.

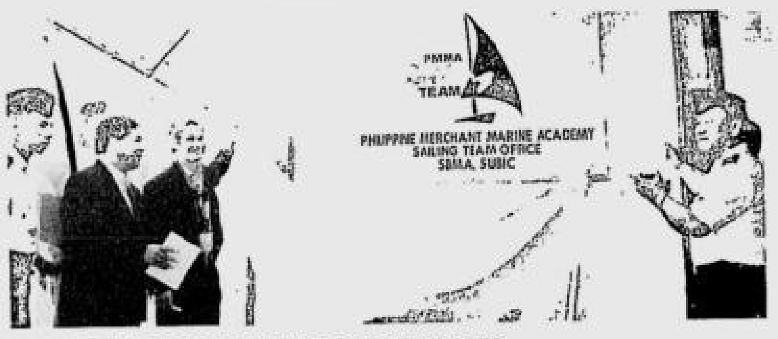
RESERVISTS ACTION IN CAVITE

The Psyops Group Foundation, headed by Col. Jesus G. Cabarrus PAF (Res), 2nd from left, recently sponsored a free medical, dental, optical, surgical, deworming, milk-feeding, nutritional and gift-giving operation, with the 131st Army Ready Reserve Division in Alfonso, Cavite. Over 2,600 residents of the town benefited from this drive. Shown is the dental team headed by Lt. Col. Inocencio Diaz PA (Res), right, with Cabarrus, MSgt Noel Penano PA (Res) and Luo Diaz.

ACCENTURE PHILIPPINES CELEBRATES EARTH DAY



Accenture, in collaboration with Hands On Manila and the Sagip-Pasig Movement, took part in the rehabilitation of the Pasig River by participating in a clean-up activity and fluvial parade in celebration of Earth Day last April 21. Accenture people take pride in the way they can combine an excellent career path with strong social, community-driven activities. This was evident during that event's clean-up drive as 150 volunteers from the company trooped to the to PUP Pasig River Linear Park to help in the restoration and rehabilitation of the river, used to be one of the most bountiful natural resources in the city in terms of fishing. The volunteers enthusiastically assisted in the removal of wastes that currently pollutes the river. Accenture also joined some 50 decorative motorboats, each advocating a message for the preservation of our water resources, in the fluvial parade.



KLAVENESS DONATES SAILBOATS

In a recent ceremony held at the grounds of the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA), the Torvald Klaveness Group through its division Klaveness Maritime Logistics (KML) strengthened its commitment to develop and to further improve the seamanship of future marine officers with the donation of several units of Flying 15 sailboats - of which another set will be donated later to the Maritime Academy for Asia and the Pacific (MAAP). Photo shows the Sailing Team office which was unveiled by (second from left) Jorn Annweiler, director - shared services, Klaveness Maritime Logistics, Commodore Feliciano Salonga, Chair of SBMA (hidden), (foreground right) PMMA president Rear Admiral Fidel Dinoso, and assisted by (first from left) Capt. Victor del Prado, president, Klaveness Maritime Agency Inc.

Asiana Airlines increases flights to Pusan

PUSAN CITY, KOREA'S SECOND LARGEST CITY, WILL NOW HAVE DAILY CONnections with Manila via Asiana Airlines (OZ). The multi-awarded airline has announced that from four flights weekly it now has daily flights from Manila to Pusan. Flights depart at 4 a.m. and arrive in Pusan at 8:30 a.m. Pusan is renowned for its beaches, a wide variety of seafood restaurants and food specialties including raw fish. As Korea's number one trading seaport, the city is also a major destination for Filipino overseas workers. With the convenience of daily flights, Asiana Airlines presents more choices for connections and tours to this modern seaside city. Asiana Airlines flies out of the Philippines through Manila, Cebu and Clark to Incheon and Pusan. From there, passengers can enjoy connections to over 66 international destinations in Asia, the United States and Europe. For more information, call your travel agent or Asiana Airlines Reservations at (632) 892-5688.

New singing lessons for show groups

THIS SUMMER, THE CENTER FOR POP MUSIC PHILIPPINES INC LAUNCHES a new singing lessons designed for show groups- duets, trios, quartet or quintet. Called "Starbuddies", it is open to kids, teens and adults (at least 8 years old). "Starbuddies" promises an improvement for group participants particularly in their voice qualities, stage performance and dance choreography. Most importantly, students get a brand new confidence fit for stars. Highlighting this course is an actual performance in a mall. Butch Albarracin, founder and CEO of the Center for Pop Music Philippines Inc, encourages amateurs or hobbyists to group themselves for the "Starbuddies" training course, open only this summer. Albarracin also said that the entertainment industry needs show groups as alternative to the overcrowded solo-singing performers. "Starbuddies" is offered in all branches of Center for Music Philippines nationwide. For details, call up 723-9373 or 727-5293 or 411-7310.

Cloud 9 names 'Trip Trip Lang' winners

FOR TURNING SUPPOSEDLY-AWKWARD SITUATIONS INTO AMUSING moments, four young ladies will now take that feel-good trip to Boracay, courtesy of Jack 'n Jill's Cloud 9. Jan Mae Agbayani, Hannah Delgado, Jenjoe Penaflor, and Carla Radaza are the winners of the recently concluded Cloud 9 "Trip Trip Lang" promo, which encouraged young people to share their personal experiences, how they recovered from humiliating instances by being good-natured and laughing at themselves. One classic example is Radaza's witty reaction to an otherwise embarrassing encounter with a client. "I was in a meeting with a client wherein we were discussing an important project," she related. "Before the meeting I ate a candy and during the meeting it suddenly slipped out of my mouth. It was so embarrassing that I had to say something to break the ice so I shouted, 'Narda!'...Everybody laughed and I closed the project afterwards." Agbayani, Delgado, Penaflor, and Radaza all entered their winning stories by either visiting the Cloud 9 "Trip Trip Lang" photo wall booth in various malls or going to the Cloud 9 website link at www.universalrobina.com. Thanks to Cloud 9, the all-time feel-good chocolate bar, they each won a vacation for four to Boracay, which includes round trip tickets via Cebu Pacific with accommodations. Cloud 9, the all-time feel-good chocolate bar with its irresistible combination of chocolate, caramel, nougat and nuts, is available in supermarkets and sari-sari stores nationwide.

The timeless appeal of Pinoy one-dish meals

AT A TIME OF FAD CUISINES AND FASTFOOD, ONE THING WILL NEVER GO away – our beloved one-dish meals. Sinigang and nilaga remind us of shared family meals whether one is in a carinderia somewhere, in a restaurant in another part of the country, or in a gathering of Pinoys abroad. In terms of meat cuts, you can try different parts for the same dish: spare ribs and beef cubes for nilaga, rib shoulder or pork cubes for sinigang, chuck rib and camto for pochero. Homemakers find that at Monterey, there is a good selection of high-quality meats and meat cuts for dishes that include kaldereta, pata tim, kilawin, and so on. Shopping at Monterey lets on-the-go parents focus on planning the household menu without worrying about quality and meat safety because the products sold in Monterey outlets have passed stringent international and local standards. Virtually everyone gives the chief cook a hand in Pinoy kitchens but in these busy, busy times when people have hectic schedules, one-dish preparations let you create a delicious pot of home-cooking that can last for days. And when the viand is well-stored, the flavors come even more deliciously together as days go by. Pinoy one-dish meals have a classic appeal. Imagine nilaga going out of style -- impossible. Even when loved ones have moved away to other places to build their own lives, and structures become faded and are torn down, one-dish meals will stay on because they hark back to family, to memories of home.

St. Luke's Lasik surgery summer promo

UNTIL TO MAY 31, PATIENTS WHO UNDERGO LASIK SURGERY WITH THE state-of-the-art Carl Zeiss Meditec Excimer Laser (MEL-80) at St. Luke's International Eye Institute-Vision Laser Center will get a free pair of Oakley sunglasses. This special summer promo is the perfect solution for people with poor vision who wish to permanently end their dependence on eyeglasses or contact lenses-safely and quickly. The MEL 80 is approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for vision correction surgery. The country's most advanced laser for refractive surgery, the MEL 80 is available only at St. Luke's International Eye Institute-Vision Laser Center. The Vision Laser Center has a staff of highly trained experts and a wide array of state-of-the-art equipment. It is a total refractive center capable of addressing the entire range of refractive errors, as well as managing patients who have had previous refractive surgery elsewhere. It is the only refractive eye center in the Philippines located in a hospital accredited by the prestigious Joint Commission International (JCI). Patients can charge their eye procedure to their BPI Express Credit Card, Security Bank MasterCard, or Diners Club International at 0% interest on 3- or 6-month terms. For more details about the promo, call the St. Luke's hotline 722-2965.

2007 Corporate Invitational Badminton Cup

MAKING IT AFTER 3 YEARS, TEAM CITIGROUP WON THE CHAMPIONSHIP trophy in the 3rd Corporate Invitational Badminton Cup. For 1st runner-up, PLDT trumped Chase Technologies. This year's Corporate Invitational Badminton Cup was held last April 21, at Badminton Central Makati Inc. 12 teams from different corporations signed up for this year's tournament, namely: PLDT, Chase Technologies, Citigroup, ADB, Accenture 1 and 2, CaiSta Philippines, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Thomson Philippines, Export Industry Bank, HP Philippines and Pilipinas Shell. In the race for the semi-finals, Citigroup beat ADB, Thomson Phils and Accenture 2 by garnering a total of 38 points. PLDT outclassed Accenture 1, Export Industry Bank and HP Phils by earning a total of 37 points, and Chase Technologies defeated Pilipinas Shell, CaiSta Phils, and Bangko Sentral by amassing a total of 39 points. The semifinals saw the top two seeds advance with Citigroup defeating PLDT (3-2) and Chase Technologies (5-0). PLDT upset Chase for the 1st runner-up position with a 3-2 lead. Major sponsors of the tournament are: PLDT Business Solutions, Accenture and Chase Technologies. Minor sponsors: Blue Angel, Finlandia Suites, Unilever Phils, and Mesuca (official shuttlecocks). Media partners, Philippine Daily Inquirer and iFM; online media partner, Yehey.com; and friends, Pilipinas Shell and MetroBank Card. Special thanks goes to the staff of AB-5 for covering the event.

Bikini Grind 2007 at Sarangani

ISLA PARILLA RESORT AND SYDNEY HOTEL, TWO SAFI-OPERATED hotels, will heat up the summer even more this year. They will make Southern Philippines a flaming destination by giving the hottest event of the year dubbed as Bikini Grind 2007 on May 18, Saturday night at Isla Parilla Resort, Sarangani province. The bikini affair features the sexiest bikini models on showdown, bands and DJs for an all night summer fantasy party. Isla Parilla, is the premier resort hotel in Sarangani. It is a fun place for weddings, birthdays and conferences close to nature. It was established to meet Socsargen's requirements for quality resorts and hotel services. Isla Parilla has Formosa Restaurant, conference and function rooms, a fishing area, boating, aqua cycling, billiards and videoke facilities. Sydney Hotel is located at heart of General Santos City in South Cotabato, 20 minutes from the airport and a stones throw away from shopping centers, bars, restaurants and business offices. Safi Hotels is a global chain of hotels with two world-class places in Southern Philippine. Please log on to www.safihotels.com tel. no. (083) 552-5479 reservation office. Look for Janette.

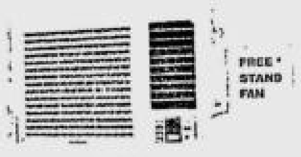
Canon launches promo

Canon, the leader in digital imaging and printing solutions, gives consumers a chance to win exciting prizes in its newest and latest promo from its Pixma line of printers and genuine Canon inks and papers with the "Canon Print More, Win More Promo" running until May 31. To join, consumers only need to purchase any of the participating Canon Pixma printers, genuine inks and paper products and look for the promo sticker on the product pack. Last day for submission of entries is 12 p.m. of May 31. The grand raffle draw will be held on June 15. The winner will receive a prize certificate entitling them to a 2-day, 3-night trip to Phuket, Thailand. Start your summer vacation right, in full color, and join Canon Pixma's Print More, Win More Promo!

ABENSON

BPI EXPRESS CREDIT

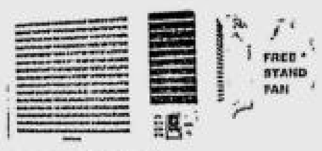
FREE
Stand Fan on Aircons!


FREE * STAND FAN

SAMSUNG
AW-07PHA
.75 HP / with Remote
P 12,295

FREE * STAND FAN

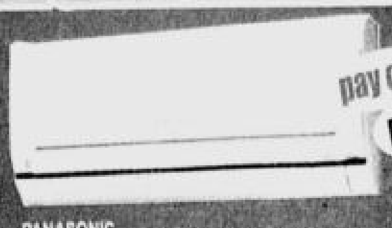
CONDURA
FP-COND008EE
0.75 HP / with Remote,
P 13,848


FREE * STAND FAN

SAMSUNG
AW-09PHA
1 HP / with Remote
P 14,395

FREE UPGRADE on SPLIT TYPE AIRCON

Exclusive DEAL!
Free Upgrade!!!
from a Panasonic Split Deluxe to a Panasonic all self cleaning A/C Robot model!



PANASONIC
CS/U-XC12EKQ
1.5 HP

pay only
P 30,495
regular price: P42,999

save P12,504

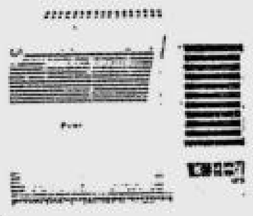
FREE * STAND FAN

CARRIER
FP-WCARFOO8ECSC
0.75 HP / with TIMER
P 14,498

FREE * STAND FAN

CARRIER
FP-WCARFOO8EESC
0.75 HP / with Remote
P 15,048

ultimate home makeover Exclusive Deals!



PANASONIC
CW-C83JPH
.8 HP with Timer
FREE Decorative Frame
FREE Travel Mug
P 13,999

Panasonic AIRCONS

FREE * STAND FAN

CONDURA
FP-COND010EE
1 HP / with Remote
P 15,348

FREE * STAND FAN

SAMSUNG
AW-12PHA
1.5 HP / with Remote
P 16,595

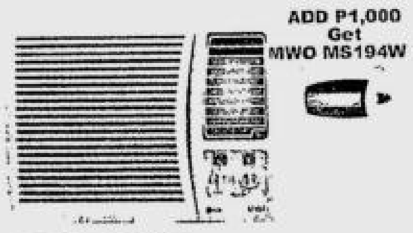
PANASONIC
CW-XC103VPH
1 HP with Remote
FREE Decorative Frame
FREE Travel Mug
P 17,899

PANASONIC
CW-C103VPH
1 HP with Remote
FREE Decorative Frame
FREE Travel Mug
P 16,799

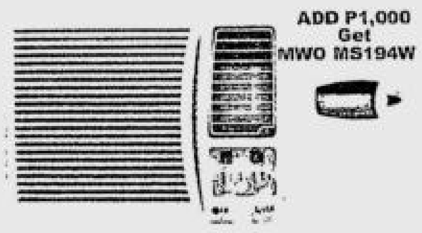
cool LG AIRCONS

ADD P1,000
Get
MWO MS194W

(FOR CASH BUYERS ONLY)


ADD P1,000 Get MWO MS194W *

LG LA 080MG
.75 HP / Manual
P 12,398


ADD P1,000 Get MWO MS194W *

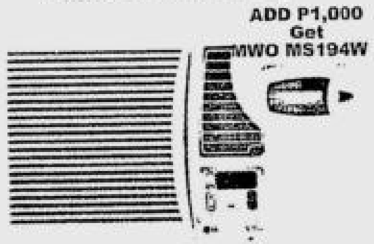
LG LA 100MG
1 HP / Manual
P 13,398

PANASONIC TC-21FX10P
21" Flat TV
FREE Adjustable Table
FREE TV Rack
P 9,199

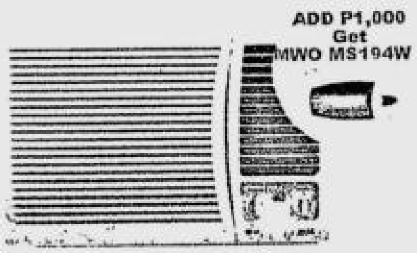
PANASONIC TC-21FX20P
21" Flat TV
FREE Adjustable Table
FREE TV Rack
P 9,699

Panasonic TV's

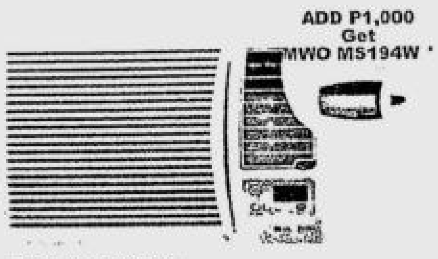
FREE
Adjustable Table on TVs!


ADD P1,000 Get MWO MS194W *

LG LA 100RG
1 HP / with Remote
P 14,448


ADD P1,000 Get MWO MS194W *

LG LA 150MG
1.5 HP / Manual
P 15,798


ADD P1,000 Get MWO MS194W *

LG LA 150RG
1.5 HP / with Remote
P 16,798

PANASONIC TC-21FX30P
21" Flat TV
FREE Adjustable Table
FREE TV Rack
P 10,699

PANASONIC
TC-29FX30P
29" Flat TV

P 24,999
FREE Adjustable Table
FREE TV Rack

Visuals, Specifications, Prices & Promotions may change without prior notice. 0% applicable provided monthly bill is paid in full. Subject to bank terms and conditions

GRAND PRIZE For BPI CARDHOLDERS ULTIMATE Home Makeover worth **P300,000**

Plus WIN For Cash Buyers & BPI Cardholders **P50,000**

For every P3,000 single receipt purchase using a BPI Express Credit card made at Abenson, Electroworld, Homeplus, Avant and Abea entitles the cardholder three (3) raffle coupons and for every P1,000 single receipt purchase made at Walter Mart Supermarket entitles the cardholder (2) raffle coupons.

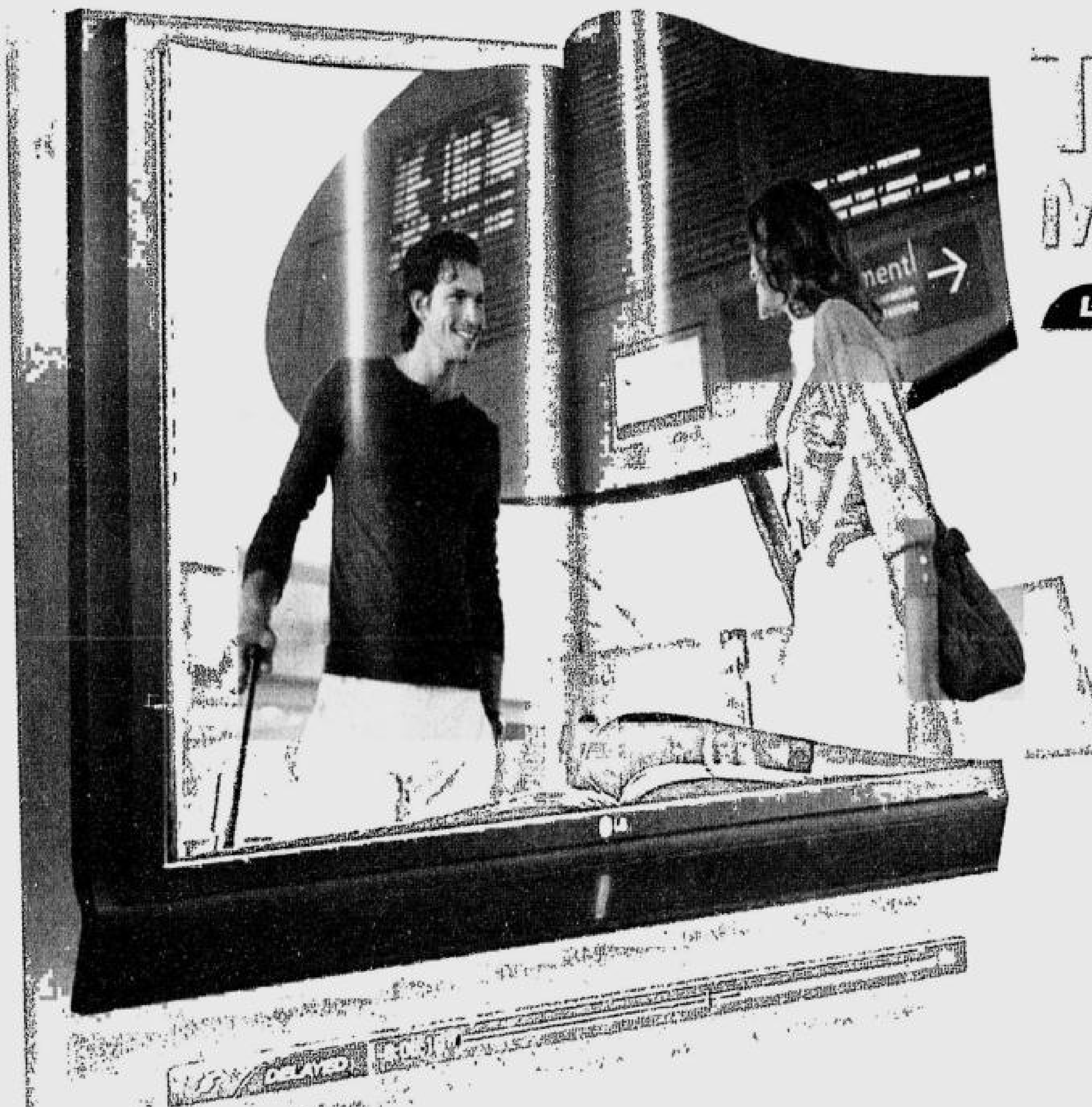
REAL 0%

S.I.P.

Promo Period: May 04 to July 04, 2007

Plus! Join Abenson's Home Makeover Raffle Promo and get a chance to win over P500,000 worth of prizes

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1600 Series of 2007



EISA AWARD Best Product 2006-200
Plasma TV
[illegible]

Time™ Machine TV

LIVE

Watch. Record. Pause. Play.

Life's good when you change the way you watch TV with LG's Plasma or LCD TV with built-in DVR (Digital Video Recorder). You can pause live broadcast with one touch of a button and play it back anytime you choose. LG's DVR will replay what you are watching automatically. Watch TV on your own schedule that matches your interests - such as your favorite TV shows, movies or sports.

Don't miss out quality time in your life with -

LG Time Machine TV.

LG Life's Good

LG Electronics Philippines
15 F. Legaspi St., Maybunga, Pasig City | Tels. 641-4181 to 85 | Fax 640-0460; 641-9486 | 1-800-10-6402525 (Free provincial calls) | CIC Hotline (02) 640-2525 , 0917-8242525, 0920-9002525
www.lge.com

ABENSON 5 EXCLUSIVE TV DEALS!

2 Free Upgrade

29" at a price of 25"

FREE Upgrade to a 29" JVC

save P5,000

17,990

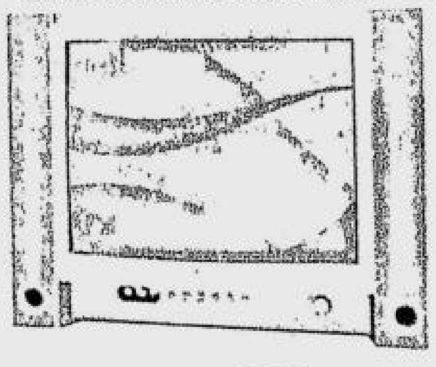
25" at a price of 21"

FREE Upgrade to a 25" JVC

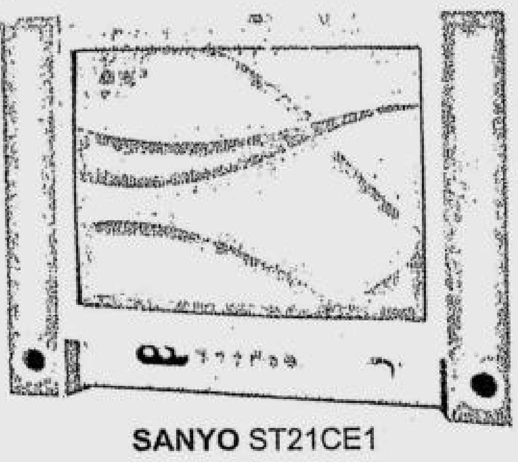
save P3,000

14,990

1 Super Sulit Deals!



SANYO 14CE1
14" Conventional TV
P 4,495



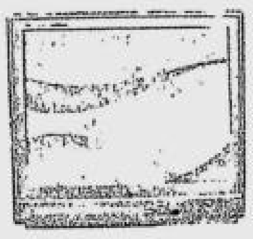
SANYO ST21CE1
21" Conventional TV
P 6,395

Visuals, Specifications, Prices & Promotions may change without prior notice. 0% applicable provided monthly bill is paid in full. Subject to bank terms and conditions

3 Free Fan

FREE
Stand Fan on Selected Sharp TV!

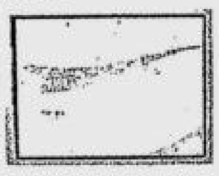
SHARP 21V FR95S
21" Flat TV
FREE Stand FaN
FREE TV Rack
P 9,698



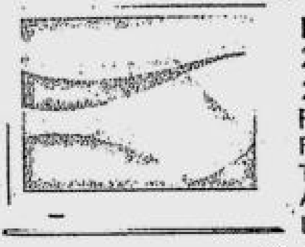
SHARP 21V FR80M
21" Flat TV
FREE Stand Fan
FREE TV Rack
P 8,698

4 Free Table

FREE
Adjustable Table on TVs!



TCL 21189
21" Flat TV
FREE Adjustable Table
FREE TV Rack
P 7,648



PHILIPS
21PT5006
21" Flat TV
FREE TV Rack
FREE Adjustable Table
ADD P1,500 for a DVD DVP 3020
P 9,980

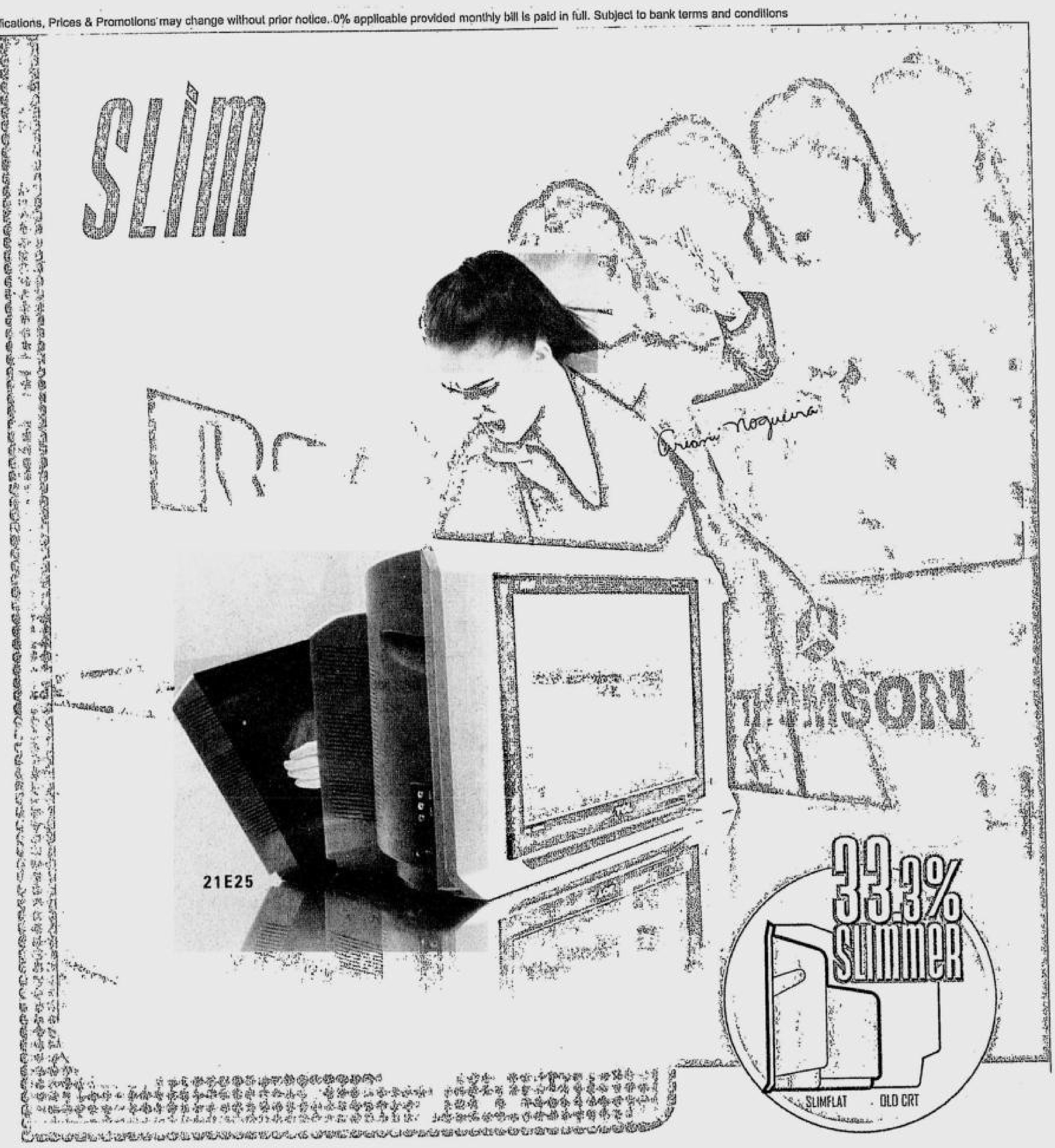
PANASONIC
TC 29FX20P
29" Flat TV
FREE TV Rack
FREE Adjustable Table
P 22,999

5 Free TV Rack

FREE
TV RACK

SAMSUNG 21Z30ML
21" Flat TV
FREE TV Rack
ADD P2,990 for a DVD 260k
P 9,995

SAMSUNG
21K40
21" Flat TV
ADD P2,990 for a DVD 260k
FREE TV Rack
P 9,495



SLIM BUT TERRIBLE

Welcome to the new generation of entertainment. TCL presents the sleeker, more elegant SlimFlat TV. Available in the 21E25, 29E20, and 21E20 models, the SlimFlat TV is 33.3% slimmer than the old-style CRT TVs, so it fits your home and lifestyle perfectly. What's more, SlimFlat comes with a visually striking LCD design and advanced features you would normally find in more expensive TVs. Enjoy ***Crystal Clear Images, Powerful Stereo Sound, Modern Style, and Affordability*** with the new TCL SlimFlat TV. Are you ready for it?

EXCELLENCE AWARD

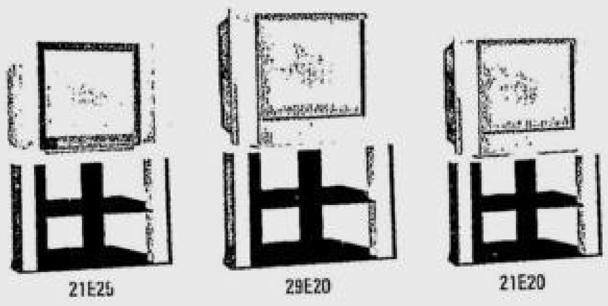
In recognition of our TV expertise, TCL has been awarded the coveted Janus 2006 De L'Industrie award for TV design excellence. TCL has also received the 58th Emmy Award, the equivalent of the Oscar for TV in the US, for the technological advancements TCL has contributed to the industry.

Emmy Award

JANUS 2006 DE L'INDUSTRIE

FREE TV RACK

AVAILABLE FOR ALL SLIMFLAT MODELS AT ALL TCL DEALERS NATIONWIDE



21E25 29E20 21E20

RELIABLE PROFESSIONAL SPEEDY 2 YEAR WARRANTY

NATIONWIDE WARRANTY

TCL offers a 2-year warranty on Genuine Parts and Service that is honored at over 130 service centers nationwide, at no extra cost! With TCL, you can count on reliable customer service and expect speedy and professional assistance.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES

SUPER VISUAL SLIM TUBE
33.3% slimmer, a brilliant breakthrough from TCL's Global Research & Development center featuring the combination of an LCD appearance with high-definition CRT features!

DIGITAL IMAGE PRECISE DISPLAY
Enhanced contrast reveals every detail, even for night scenes. Digitally precise images are created by increasing picture depth, defining the separation between an object and its background

AUTOMATIC TUBE MAINTENANCE
Extends the tube's life by 10% and protects the tube's fluorescent layer from blaring spots caused by power fluctuations or by turning your TV On and Off with a pre-warm up On Delay.

RCA IN THE USA IS TCL IN ASIA.

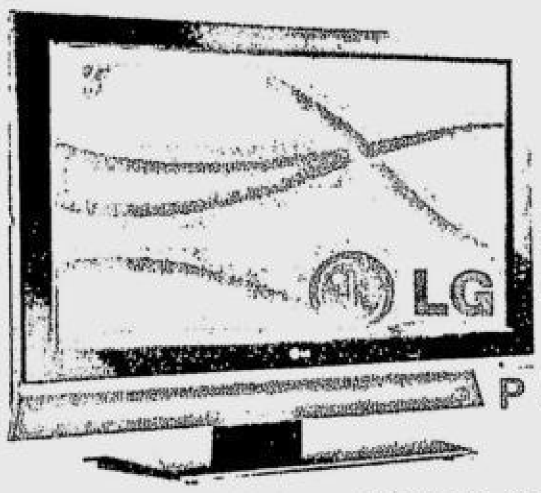
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
TCL SUN, INC. 1901 Richville Corporate Tower, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Tel. nos.: 7723206, 7724209, 8074880 loc 112. Nationwide Service Center: 8093138 loc. 125, 8093460
HOTLINE: 8425411 www.tcl.com

TCL

Great LCD Deals!

ABENSON

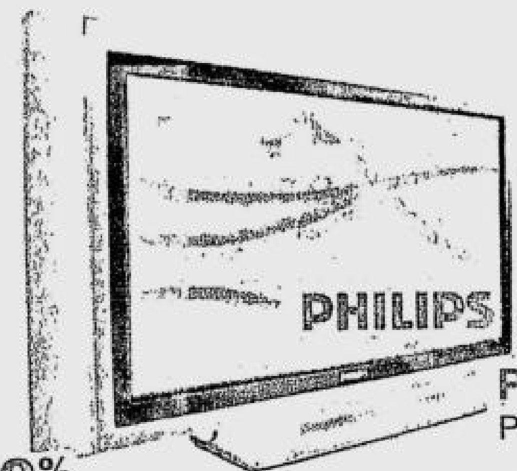
Up to 24 Months 0% Interest



LG
32LCR2R
32" LCD TV

P 59,999

for cash buyers: FREE GC 131SV
(Personal Ref)

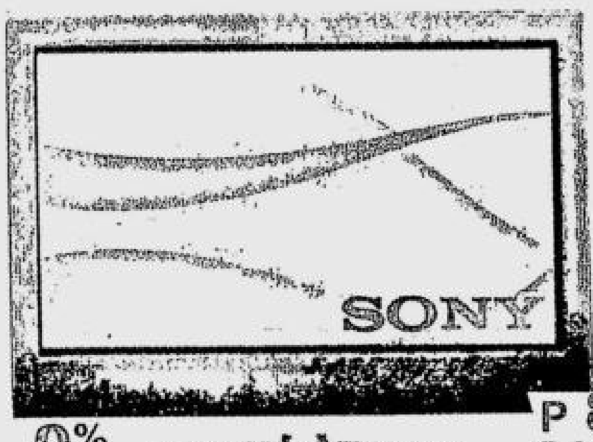


0% INTEREST

PHILIPS
32PF7321
32" LCD TV

P 69,980
P 2,915.83/ Mo.

FREE HTS 3105



0% INTEREST

SONY
32S200A
32" LCD TV

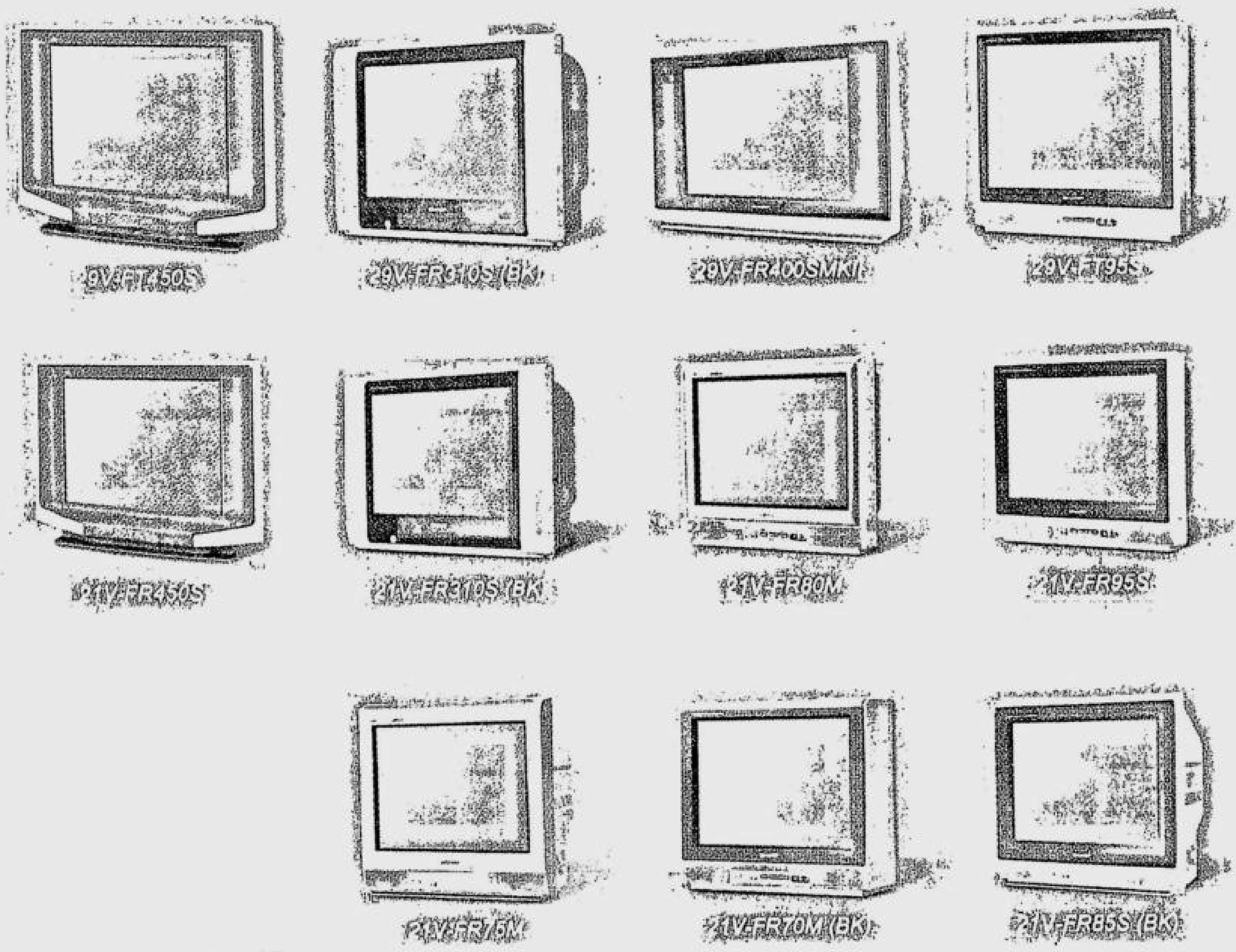
P 89,990
P 3,749.58/ Mo.

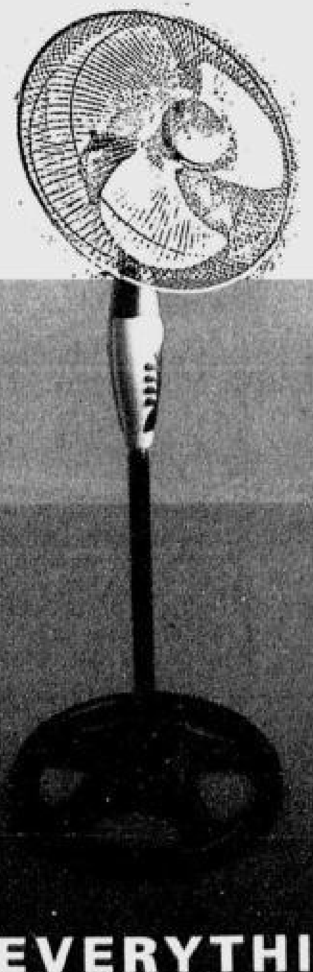
AVAIL GEAR-UP YOUR
BRAVIA VOUCHERS

Visuals, Specifications, Prices & Promotions may change without prior notice. 0% applicable provided monthly bill is paid in full. Subject to bank terms and conditions

SHARP

Now, there's a cool reason to buy a Sharp Flat TV.





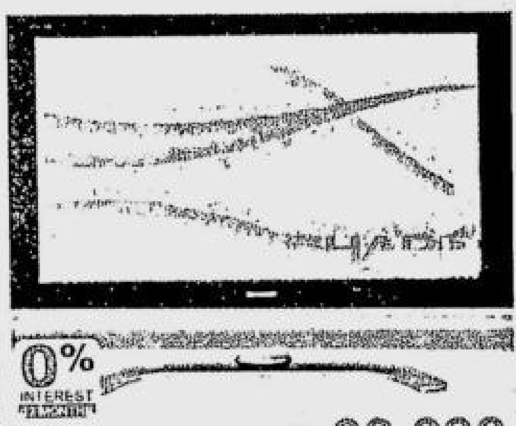
Get a stand fan free for every Sharp Flat TV purchase.

This stylish 40.64cm. (16in.) electric stand fan is yours free when you purchase a Sharp Flat TV. Perfect this summer season! Available at all authorized dealers nationwide.

Promo runs until June 30, 2007.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1930, Series of 2007.

EVERYTHING'S BETTER IF IT'S SHARP.

www.sharp.ph

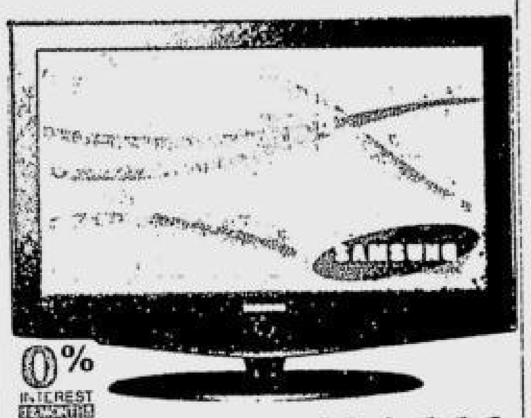


0% INTEREST

SHARP 37PX5M
37" LCD TV

P 99,998
P 8,333.16/ Mo.

FREE BRACKET OR
ADD P1,999 for a LCD Rack
FREE 21V-FR75M (TV)



0% INTEREST

SAMSUNG
LA40R71BX
40" LCD TV

P 134,900
P 11,241.66/ Mo.

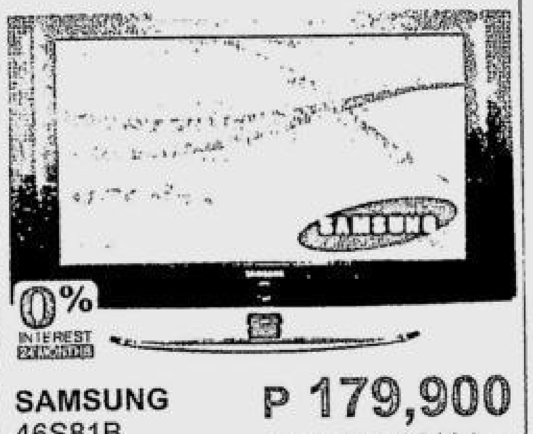
ADD P 5000 for a Home Theater

0% INTEREST

SONY 46V200A
46" LCD TV

P 239,990
P 9,999.58/ Mo.

AVAIL GEAR-UP YOUR
BRAVIA VOUCHERS



0% INTEREST

SAMSUNG
46S81B
46" LCD TV

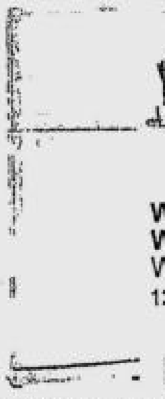
P 179,900
P 7,495.83/ Mo.

ADD P 15000 for a Home Theater

ABENSON

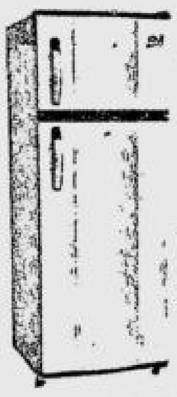
Cool Refrigerators

FREE
Kettle on Refrigerators!



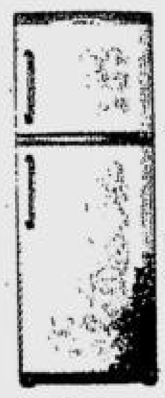
FREE • E-KETTLE

WHITE WESTINGHOUSE
WR3606 DT SX
12 C.F. No Frost
P 31,700



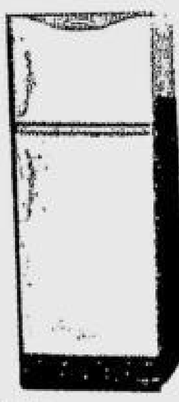
FREE • E-KETTLE

WHIRLPOOL
WSG-95
9 C.F. No Frost
P 21,648



FREE • E-KETTLE

KELVINATOR
KTD-300MN
9 C.F.
P 17,599



FREE • E-KETTLE

CONDURA
CTD-300MN
9 C.F.
P 16,595

ADD P1,000
Got
MWO MS194W

LG
GR-U212RL
7 C.F. No Frost
P 14,448

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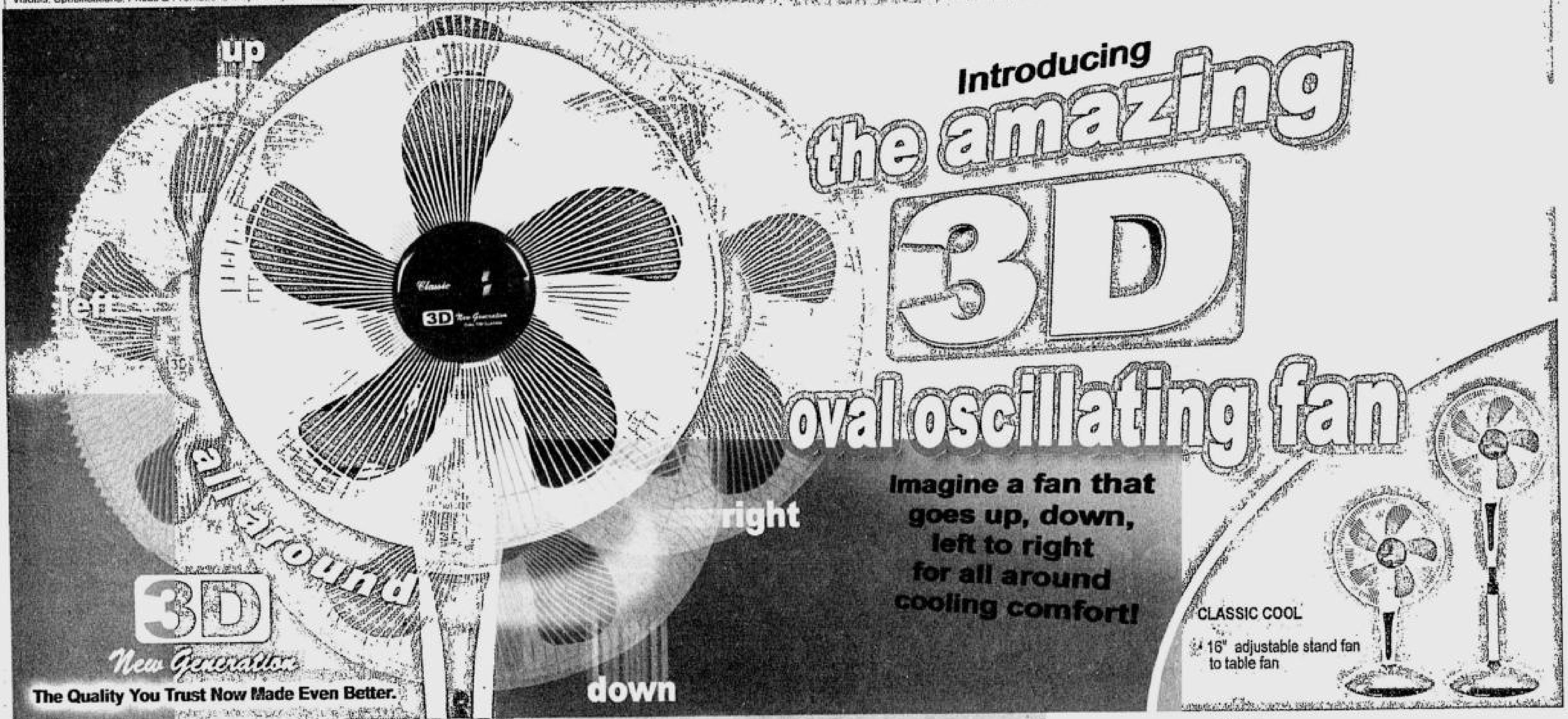
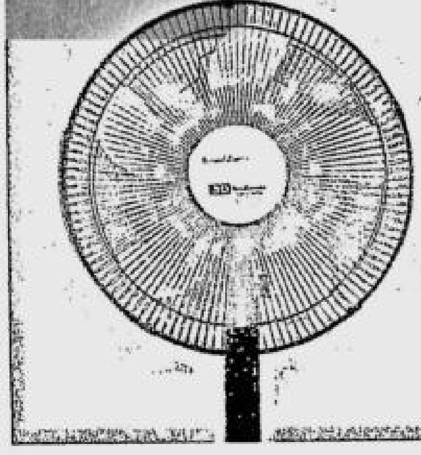


Introducing the amazing 3D oval oscillating fan

Imagine a fan that goes up, down, left to right for all around cooling comfort!

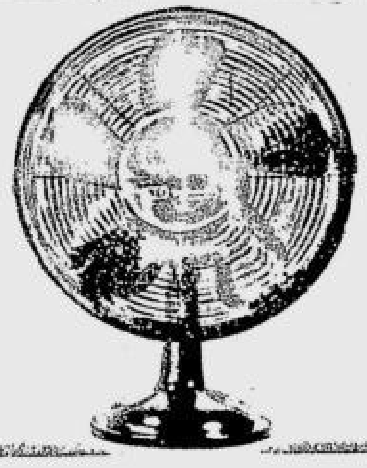
CLASSIC COOL

- 16" adjustable stand fan to table fan



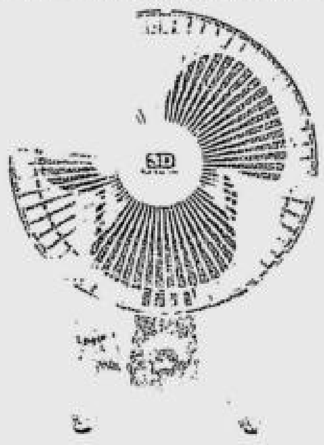
ISLAND BREEZE

- 16" adjustable stand fan to table fan
- Available in metallic silver / black color



RETRO COOL

- 12" Heavy duty type desk fan



PLEASANT BREEZE

- Your very own 8" personal fan!

40R81 (40")
37R81 (37")
32R81 (32")

imagine a television whose design will be admired by all

Introducing the new Samsung Bordeaux Plus LCD TV and its inspiring sense of beauty. Elegant round curves. A beautiful bezel. Arresting blue lighting. A television designed to complement stylish room like yours. A television everyone will admire. With Samsung, it's not that hard to imagine. To learn more, visit www.samsung.com/ph.

SAMSUNG

*All models comes with table-top stand and wallmount bracket

Samsung Customer Contact Center: **TOLL FREE 1-800-10SAMSUNG** for PLDT or 1-800-3SAMSUNG for Digitel.